

THE ATHENÆUM

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No. 2143.

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Nothing is more curious in the story here toiled over for a dozen years than the absence of the man, Francis Bacon, and of the persons who stood nearest to him in blood, from the scene. Now and then we hear that Bacon is alive, that he has a mother, that he has a wife,

that he has a stepfather; but we never see these persons on the page, we never feel them breathing in the text. In the way of problem we have enough and to spare; in the way of picture we have nothing at all. This absence of human nature is consistent with the editor's conception of the limitation under which an editor should do his work. In the Dryasdust school, flesh and blood are condemned as snares, colour and movement are denounced as vanities. Poetry has no place in the school. Most of all, it is well to guard against the constructive power of the imagination. If a professor in that school were told that three ladies and two gentlemen sat down to dinner, he would allow you to speak of the five persons at table; but if he were told that a painter had mixed yellow and blue colours on his palette he would object to your calling the compound colour *green*. He objects to inference. The power to draw an inference is a snare. Two and three count up into five; and so far he can travel on a sure road. But yellow and blue do not count into green; and he does not see the way in which yellow and blue become green by the mere fact of union. Hence, he disputes your right to that ordinary process of the understanding called putting this and that together. It is dangerous; it is poetical; it leads to a third term. You infer green from the mixture of blue and yellow. Hold, he cries, that is a "development." He cannot trust himself with a development. If you speak of something happening in May, he will not object; if you add, that the pear-trees were in bloom, he will interfere. It is not in the record, cries Dryasdust. It is in Nature, you reply, the best of all records. If a man walks down a country lane in May, through lines of pear-trees, he *must* walk in the perfume of pear-trees. That is only an inference, he insists, a development of the fancy—poetry, not truth.

Let us take, as the one example of this method of working which happens to have some touches of human interest, the brief and bald account which Mr. Spedding gives of Bacon's courtship and marriage—the facts in a man's life which generally touch with tender sentiment the duller of complers. "What obstructions Bacon met with on his way to matrimony," he observes, "we do not know. But they would probably be such as a man who had the key of so many good places as Salisbury had, might well help to smooth. The Lady was, no doubt, the same to whom he had alluded in 1603—'an alderman's daughter,' 'an handsome maiden,' and 'to his liking.' Alderman Barnham, her father, had been dead for fifteen years or more. Her mother, by a second marriage, had been Lady Pakington since November 1598—a 'little violent lady,' according to Chamberlain. She herself was coheir to her father with three sisters; and her name was Alice: which is nearly all we know about her; unless a remark referring to a much later time, and recorded more than twenty years after, be thought to imply that which if true in 1620 must have been true also in 1606, namely, that she inherited some portion of her mother's weakness in the government of the unruly member." This appears to be all that Mr. Spedding knows about Alice Barnham, about her father and mother, about her kinsfolk and guardians, about the place in which she lived and the circumstances in which she had been reared. But this is very far indeed from being all that is known of the young lady and her kin. As Mr. Spedding tells his dry and meagre tale the old scandalous stories about Sir Francis going into the City in search of a rich wife, and selling his golden reputation for a bag of money, start up

into life. If the truth were as he puts it, those scandals might have had some ground. But the true facts of the case are not only curious in themselves, but serve to explain how Sir Francis went into the City for a wife.

In point of fact, we know far more about Bacon's courtship and marriage than we do about any similar event in the lives of his great contemporaries. Glad, indeed, should we be to find so much curious information about the courtship and marriage of Shakspeare and Raleigh. We know a great deal more about the future Lady Bacon's father and mother, about the home in which she lived as a young woman, about the circumstances among which she had grown up, than Mr. Spedding tells.

"Alderman Barnham, her father, had been dead for fifteen years or more," is all he says about Lady Bacon's father; and we need not note that this lack of information leaves the whole transaction of Bacon's offer of his hand to Alice very much in the dark. Now, the truth is, that Benedict Barnham, Alice's father, had been a colleague of Bacon in the House of Commons for many years; having sat as member for Minehead in one Parliament, for Yarmouth in another. He was a merchant, living in Cheapside, and serving as the Alderman of Bread Street Ward. He had four daughters, to each of whom, on his death, he left a fair portion; though the bulk of his fortune fell to his widow Dorothy.

Of Lady Bacon's mother Mr. Spedding is equally ignorant. "Her mother, by a second marriage, had been Lady Pakington since November, 1598." This is all. Her birth is not stated; her very name is withheld. Yet all the main facts about her are well known. Her name was Dorothy; she was the daughter of Humphry Smith, a famous mercer, who in his time had been silkman to Queen Bess. Dorothy was a lovely girl, full of spirit, bent on rising in the world. Her first match was made for money, when she accepted Benedict Barnham, of Cheapside, who left her a young widow, with a big estate; a pretty and daring woman, small in height, fair of face, shrewd of tongue, greedy of rank and state; a prize which had been won—for the present—by Sir John Pakington; after whose death it was to be won and worn, not once but twice, by other suitors; the third time by a Viscount; the fourth time by an Earl. Dorothy Smith, the mercer's daughter, wore out four husbands and died a Countess at last!

When the rich widow and her bags of money had been won by Sir John Pakington, the stalwart Worcester knight, Alice Barnham and her sisters had gone to live with their mother at Westwood Park; where, in the quaint Tudor house, by the famous fish-ponds, within the triple belt of trees, and under the purple shadow of Malvern hills, Alice grew up to her estate of womanhood. All these facts are unknown to Mr. Spedding, who never mentions Westwood Park at all; and only once, in passing, names Sir John. Then he mis-spells a family name, which one would have thought sufficiently well known in our day to be correctly written in a book. It is possible, indeed, that he is unaware of the connexion that exists between the living Sir John Pakington and the "lusty Pakington" of Elizabeth's reign. That connexion is close; and the blood of Lady Bacon's mother runs in the veins of our present Minister at War.

From what is here said, one might see a way in which Bacon could have become acquainted with the Barnham family, without falling upon it after the fashion of gold-seeking adventures in Cheapside hinted in the scandalous

stories; though the second marriage of Dorothy, which carried her into the neighbourhood of Droitwich, would have been likely enough to cut off an acquaintance made with her first husband in the House of Commons. But what is here said is not all. There was a further connexion of the Bacons and the Pakingtons of which Mr. Spedding has never heard. Francis Bacon had several kinsmen in the city. One of these merchants was his uncle James, third son of Robert Bacon, of Drinkston, and of course a younger brother of the Lord Keeper. James Bacon had made money in the City; had become alderman of his ward; had married three wives. His third wife was a daughter of Humphry Pakington; so that Francis had been actually brought through the marriage of his kinsfolk into the Barnham family group.

All these facts being remembered, it is easy to see why Sir Francis Bacon, already a great man, and likely to become a rich and powerful man, should be found courting Alice Barnham, a "handsome maiden," much "to his liking," three or four years before he was actually married to her, on a bright May morning, in the Marylebone Fields; and we may therefore safely dismiss all tales and trash about his seeking a fortune in the City and selling his reputation for a bag of gold.

Not one of these explanatory facts is known to Mr. Spedding, who has consequently left the story of Bacon's courtship extremely incomplete.

Come we now to the wedding-day, which is got over in the happiest Dryasdust style. All that we know about it, says Mr. Spedding, is told by Carleton thus:—"Sir Francis Bacon was married yesterday to his young wench in Maribone Chapel. He was clad from top to toe in purple, and bath made himself and his wife such store of fine raiments of cloth of silver and gold that it draws deep into her portion. The dinner was kept at his father-in-law Sir John Pakington's lodging over against the Savoy, where his chief guests were the three knights, Cope, Hicks, and Beeston; and upon this conceit (as he said himself) that since he could not have my L. of Salisbury in person, which he wished, he would have him at least in his representative body."

Out of this raw material it is obvious that a man of any poetic faculty could not help making a very pretty and a very true picture of the wedding-day. The time is May, the scene is London. A man familiar with the poets and herbalists—he need not go beyond Jonson and Gerarde—knows very well what London was in the month of May in the reign of James the First. He knows what the Strand was like: he knows where the little church stood in Marylebone Fields: he knows through what country lanes a bridal procession must pass on its way from one point to the other: he knows what trees must have brightened the way and thrown fragrance into the air. But all this, cries Dryasdust, is "development." It is not in the record. You may not put this and that together. You shall not call in the aid of a map; in fact, you have no right to make a picture of that scene at all.

The writer has a curious theory about the personal affairs of his hero: a theory which he announces and violates in more than one place. His theory is, that we have nothing to do with Bacon's private and domestic life. "Twenty years of married life in which the gossips and scandal-mongers of the time found nothing to talk about have a right to remain exempt from intrusion!" Why is rational curiosity called intrusion? If we have no right to inquire into the domestic relations of Sir Francis and Lady Bacon, why does Mr. Spedding print that nasty

remark of an obscure gossip about "the unruly member," and in that exceedingly unlucky way? The gossip tells the story when the Viscountess St. Albans was an aged woman; the modern editor tells it of Alice Barnham on her wedding-day. Surely this is intruding, and in a fashion far from polite. Mr. Spedding closes the scene with a slam: "I do not know why it should not be allowed to pass with as little remark now as it did then, or as any similar match would do in the present day." Any similar match! Are Bacons then plenty as blackberries? Are matches of equal importance being made in our time daily? Surely Mr. Spedding does not mean that Bacon is an ordinary man, the chief incident in whose life ought "to pass" unnoticed! If not, what does he mean?

One particle of addition Mr. Spedding makes to Carleton's lively picture. Carleton says the three chief guests were Cope, Hicks and Beeston. Mr. Spedding says the Hicks here mentioned was "no doubt" Sir Michael. A former writer had called him Sir Baptist. The point is of slight importance, and either party may be right. But we should like to have some authority for the substitution of Sir Michael for Sir Baptist. Both knights were friends of Bacon; both had lent him money. Either might very well have been one of his guests on that wedding-day. As we find Sir Francis, shortly afterwards, paying off Sir Walter Cope and Sir Baptist Hicks, it seems likely enough that he may have invited them together on his bridal day to see the beginning of his more settled fortunes. It is a probability, and no more. On the other side there is nothing to show. There is a hint in favour of Sir Baptist: there is not even a hint in favour of Sir Michael.

We have dwelt upon this one point in the copious narrative in preference to dealing with a multitude of facts, because it is a good example of the way in which the whole work has been done. There is a vast amount of exposition. There is a small amount of personal fact. The repetition is constant. In short, while much is omitted that should have found a place in these volumes, the general mass of Bacon's own writings has been overlaid with commentary.

Such as the book is, however, we must take it. We cannot change the method. After all, a learned man has the right to proceed in his own way: and if the way is dull, and the pace wearisome, a reader need not follow far. Even as it stands, with all its sins upon its head, this edition of Lord Bacon's works is one that we are glad to range on a convenient shelf.

From the Levant, the Black Sea, and the Danube.

By R. Arthur Arnold. 2 vols. (Chapman & Hall.)

IN more ways than one, this book is a recurrence to the old style of travels. Mr. Arthur Arnold tells us all he sees, and he tells it familiarly. He does not attempt to make pictures out of the new sights which surrounded him, or even to point the contrasts which each new scene presented. It is enough that sights and scenes were new to him, and that he wrote down his impressions of them. At an earlier time his thoughts would have taken the form of a journal. The main difference now is, that they have been told in letters. As there has for some years been a lull in the production of books about Greece, Turkey, and the Danube, Mr. Arnold's work may be new to those whose memory does not outlast many seasons. We must admit that the tone of his letters is pleasant. He runs on smoothly and easily, catching up a multitude of small details, and allowing us to weave them, if we will, into a

picture. What he saw in Euboea and among the ruins of Sebastopol has more novelty, and is more ably described than the rest of his journey. Mr. Arnold himself must have felt that he could add little to the existing stock of knowledge about Athens and Constantinople.

Of course, everybody has not been at an Athenian election; still less has everybody published an account of the process just as it is being repeated in England. On this subject Mr. Arnold is worth hearing. The Athenian polling-places, he says, are often the churches. Greek priests are prohibited from taking part in elections, and in order to make this plain to the whole nation, the churches are desecrated for the time being. If this plan were to be adopted in England, the Duke of Marlborough would have to throw Blenheim open, and would be turned out of it himself till the polling was over. Ballot-boxes were ranged in the centre of the church which Mr. Arnold visited, and electors were smoking in front of them. There was a box for each candidate, and the elector, putting his arm in so far that the movement of it could not be observed by any looker-on, dropped his ball to the right or the left, as he wished to vote for or against the candidate. It was said that an official in the island of Euboea stopped up the entrance to the "No" half of a candidate's ballot-box. Mr. Arnold does not know how often similar practices may be tried; but he reports favourably of the outward and visible signs of order and independence. His own walking-stick was taken away by the soldiers on duty before he was allowed to approach the ballot-boxes. In a country ruled as Greece has been, and among a people given to private corruption, this public regard for order is a great gain. Of the prevalent corruption we may judge, amongst other things, from Mr. Arnold's statement that in the steam-boat from the Piræus to Corinth at least a third of the passengers travelled without paying.

Mr. Arnold is at his best in describing village life in the island of Euboea, and the Easter festivities among the peasants. Here is a sketch which rises far above his average:—

"With a little gun-firing the religious ceremony came to an end, and the villagers prepared for a dance. From all that I have written you will have some notion of the dress of the men, but you cannot conceive the gorgeous colours of the women's clothes as they arranged themselves for this Easter dance. Many wore three hundred or four hundred Turkish coins upon their heads, strung across from ear to ear like beads, and some wore as many as twenty or thirty silver coins, as large as five-shilling pieces, upon the long plait of hair which descended below their waist. Aprons, scarlet, mauve and yellow, were tied upon their white chemises, and veils of all colours, one a bright apple-green, completed their head-dress. Some had their breasts covered with silver ornaments, and others with tawdry gilt jewelry, while some—looking not less happy—wore their babies there, with perpetual satisfaction to the infant appetite. A fiddle would have horribly vexed the harmony of the scene, and the polka, or the noisy country dance, or vulgar kiss-in-the-ring, would have seemed disrespectful to the white head of the great mountain, which looked down upon the revels. But the Euboean villagers gave no offence to Nature. The men joined hands, ten or twelve of them in a row, the last holding a handkerchief with a woman who led about a dozen other women, and these were succeeded by a continually diminishing row of children. Probably by choice—it seemed to me by chance—all so arranged themselves that the line was headed by a man six feet high, and without gaps, with even gradation, descended to a small toddler whom a yard-measure would have much overtopped. Forming themselves into a coil, like a ram's horn, the dance consisted in the grave and very gentle expansion and contraction of the volute, the music being a simple bar of notes sung by all,

and repeated with each advance and retreat. The movement was so grave and dignified that I confess it was difficult to see where the fun lay for the performers, but for a spectator the scene was delicious. I would I could have painted it with its background of mothers and old men, and dirty huts, from whence this brilliant crowd had issued, and emerald-green wheat and dark pines and snowy mountain, and above all the bright blue sky."

A judicious system of selection would have given us one volume in which many similar scenes might have been included. Mr. Arnold has thought a tour in the Levant demanded two volumes, and the result is, that the good descriptions are comparatively few, while the mass of unnecessary writing is large. We might pass over nearly all the account of Constantinople, with the exception of the lessons taught to English makers of coffee and Turkish makers of sewers. Drainage lore has not generally been possessed by writers of books of travel. But sometimes when we read newspaper descriptions of the Metropolitan Main Sewers, and of other equally savoury subjects, we tremble at the thought of coming times, in which sanitary science will go on its travels, and will collect all the smells from London to St. Petersburg. Mr. Arnold has been merciful to us in this respect. His knowledge of the subject, as shown in his criticism of the Turkish sewer, staggered us for a while. But at least it showed us what we had been spared.

When we get out of Turkey, and begin to wander round Sebastopol, a new interest arises. With all we had heard and read of that obstinate fortress, we were not acquainted with its ruins. Mr. Arnold shows us the ragged shells of noble buildings, broken pillars, walls riddled by shot and looking as if they had been artillery targets, or, sadder still, houses that seem perfect outside, till, on coming close, you find them roofless and empty. The magnificent docks, into which vessels were lifted by a canal, and in which a bath of fresh water from the Crimean mountains purged off all the impurities of the sea, are a grass-grown heap of rubbish, the masonry shattered and the foundations cracked to the very bottom by explosion. Here, too, is a ghastly scene of ruin:—

"Up the wide street, grass-grown and silent, there is nothing but ruin. The doorways of some of the ruined houses have been blocked with stones, to exclude those who have no right within the walls; but in palaces and villas alike, weeds are growing high and rank, their green luxuriance choking the cellar-stairs and waving above the window-sills of the ground-floor. On the summit of the ridge, about the centre of the town, stands a tolerably well-executed model of the Temple of Theseus at Athens; the design is copied with much fidelity, but the Inkerman freestone is unworthy of comparison with marble from Mount Pentelicus. From a distance this building, like the original at Athens, appears perfect; but from a near view, daylight can be seen through the hole a cannon-shot has made in the upper angle of the pediment. One column has been struck at the base and the pavement split away from it; another has received a cruel blow in the middle of the shaft; and the soft stone has split into fragments, leaving only a third of the diameter of the column to support this portion of the massive entablature. The building, which was a church, has received many less significant but severe blows. Not a vestige of the covering or any part of the internal woodwork remains, and where the roof rested upon the walls wild flowers are growing. I made my way towards the building through the enclosure in which it stands, knee-deep in weeds, my footsteps embarrassed by hidden stones, the ruins of the wall which no longer sequesters the neglected ground. Street after street the town presents the same aspect of ruined grandeur. Broken pillars, defaced escutcheons, walls pierced with gaping holes, or

deeply cut into by artillery; these things are never out of sight."

Mr. Arnold was nearly sharing the fate of Sebastopol, and being picked off by a rifle bullet, on the practising-ground under the Malakhoff. Let us hope that, if so, he would have been the last victim. But if it be true that the erection of a statue to the founder of Sebastopol in front of the ruined Alexander Barracks is significant of the Czar's intention to restore the fortress as soon as he can escape from the stringent provisions of the Treaty of Paris, even this may be too sanguine. Moreover, we are far from wishing Mr. Arnold to have been a victim.

Travel and Adventure in the Territory of Alaska, formerly Russian-America; now ceded to the United States; and in various other Parts of the North Pacific. By Frederick Whymper. With Map and Illustrations. (Murray.)

ONLY the other day the United States purchased from the Emperor of All the Russias a rather considerable landed estate at the moderate price of about eighteen dollars per square mile. As four hundred thousand square miles of territory thereby passed into the hands of our American cousins, it is less surprising that the stroke of business caused transient dissatisfaction to European powers jealous of the rapid growth of the Great Republic, than that it failed to meet with universal approval amongst the citizens of the States. Regarded as a measure taken by the Washington government in anticipation of the time when its reversionary interest in British America would accrue to the Republic, the acquisition of so vast a tract of country was thought to savour of menace to British rights. Thus construed, the transfer and annexation occasioned not a few expressions of disapprobation on this side the Atlantic; but even the knowledge that the transaction was not altogether to our taste could not completely reconcile public opinion within the limits of the Union to an arrangement which involved the immediate payment of a large sum in cash with no prospect of a quick return of profits. That the price was exorbitant, when put beside the extent of the acquired property, no one ventured to suggest; but so much could be urged against the quality of the soil and situation of the estate that prudent Americans, more solicitous for their own good than the welfare of their posterity, were not without grounds for grumbling at the large outlay for the attainment of very remote, if not altogether imaginary, advantages. The more emphatic of Mr. Seward's critics maintained that the big estate, for which no important section of the American people had ever expressed any desire, would be a source of embarrassment rather than of gain to a country heretofore unmanageably large; and the statesman was treated with an abundance of pungent ridicule about the new dependency of "Walrus-sia." For awhile the daily newspapers of New York were enlivened with humorous advertisements, in which the Secretary of State was represented as offering fabulous sums for "waste lands and worn-out colonies," "submerged and undiscovered islands," "icebergs and polar bears," "volcanoes and earthquakes, provided they should not shake the confidence of the State Department." When the matter came before Congress, one party described Walrus-sia as fairer and brighter than the Elysian Fields; whilst another party contemptuously called it "the tag end of creation."

Upon the whole, Mr. Whymper is less disposed to side with the depreciators of Wal-

rusland than to think that Mr. Seward deserves the thanks of his people for having bought them an eligible property for a decidedly moderate sum. "The extreme northern division of the country," he observes towards the close of his work, "may indeed be nearly valueless; but the foregoing pages will have shown that, in the more central positions of the territory, furs are abundant, and that the trade in them, which may probably be further developed, must fall into American hands. The southern parts of the country are identical in character with the neighbouring British territory, and will probably be found to be as rich in mineral wealth; whilst the timber, though of inferior growth, owing to the higher latitude, will yet prove by no means worthless. The fisheries may become of great value. There are extensive cod-banks off the Aleutian Isles, and on many other parts of the coast. Salmon is the commonest of common fish in all the rivers of the North Pacific, and is rated accordingly as food only fit for those who cannot get better." Americans who are not satisfied with this catalogue of good things to be found in Alaska—so called from the long peninsula of Alaska—must remember that it would be unreasonable for them to look for everything in land bought at barely eighteen dollars per square mile! As for English interests, Mr. Whymper holds our American possessions full cheap, and, glancing at the probability of their sooner or later falling into the maw of the United States, observes, "Looking at the matter without prejudice, I believe that it will be better for those countries and ourselves when such shall be the case. We shall be released from an encumbrance, a source of expense and public weakness; they, freed from the trammels of periodical alarms of invasion, and feeling the strength of independence, will develop and grow; and—speaking very plainly and to the point—our commercial relations with them will double and quadruple themselves in value."

In the June of 1862 the author made the voyage from London to Vancouver's Island, *via* the Horn, in the Tynemouth—a staunch iron screw-steamer, which, in addition to the honourable repute of having outlived the memorable Black Sea storm that destroyed the Black Prince, bore a rather remarkable living freight in the shape of sixty ladies, specially shipped for the supply of the colonial marriage-market. "They had been sent out by a home society, under the watchful care of a clergyman and matron; and," observes the chronicler, "they must have passed the dreariest three months of their existence on board, for they were isolated from the rest of the passengers, and could only look on at the fun and amusements in which every one else could take a part." No sooner were they liberated from their floating prison than these women, several of whom were "neither young nor beautiful," made good speed to commit matrimony or worse,—about half of them marrying or entering domestic service within a few days after their arrival at the colony, and the other half going not less quickly "to the bad," in company with the profligate loafers of Victoria. In addition to the events of sea-sickness and other consequences of rough weather, which usually attend a long sea-voyage, the monotony of this outward passage was varied by a mutinous outbreak on the part of the common sailors of the insufficient crew, who made their complaints to the captain in so turbulent and menacing a manner that the only course of action open to him was to utter the fiat—"Put them in irons." After some sharp fighting between the mutineers on the one hand,

and the ship's officers aided by the passengers on the other, the decisive order was executed; and when the captives had been duly handcuffed and "stowed away in a rather warm compartment near the engine-room, till such time as mutiny should be melted out of them," the victors were called upon to assist the captain still further in working the vessel, which they had thus unceremoniously deprived of its proper seamen. Fortunately, the male passengers were numerous, and the proposal was acceptable. "All the younger men came forward readily, were solemnly enrolled, and set to work at once, glad of an interruption to the monotony of the voyage." What with scrubbing decks, hauling at ropes, and filling and hoisting coal-sacks, they made such a practical acquaintance with the humble toils of seamanship that none of them cared to sing—

Then, Bill, let us thank Providence
That you and I are sailors.

Having "tasted the dignity of labour in the rôle of an amateur coal-heaver," Mr. Whympers was not sorry when he was appointed to the comparatively sinecure post of keeper of the "look-out." But all went so pleasantly, that the affair is an agreeable feature of the retrospect. "We cooled our fevered frames," records the historian of the unsuccessful mutiny, "with libations of beer and buckets of diluted lime-juice; in this matter having an undoubted advantage over the old crew, who didn't get much of such luxuries. At last, the tropical heat, superadded to that of the furnaces, brought the men to their senses, and the larger part of them went back to work; three, however, held out, and were kept in irons." There is comfort in believing that these three impenitent scoundrels suffered terribly from thirst and heat during their too brief incarceration; for, on reaching Stanley Harbour, East Falkland, where they were formally tried and convicted of mutiny on the high seas, they escaped with a sentence "to a spell of hard labour,—which, in this case, consisted of amateur gardening, and sanding the floors of the government buildings. They were apparently rather glad than otherwise of a brief residence in a place where fresh food was so abundant, and knew, moreover, that the next vessel touching there short-handed would probably be glad to take them at higher wages than those ruling in the port of London."

After a period of adventure and exploration in the interior of Vancouver's Island, of which his book contains a very entertaining and humorous record, Mr. Whympers, in the summer of 1865, attached himself as official "artist" to the expedition which the Western Union Telegraph Company of America, the largest telegraph company in the world, had sent out to make the requisite survey of some six thousand miles of country on both sides of the Pacific, for a projected line of overland telegraph, by which, with the aid of a submarine cable, beneath the Bering Straits, it was designed to establish communication between the Old World and the New. Undertaken at a period when most telegraphic engineers entertained only faint hopes of success for the Atlantic Cable, this scheme was relinquished in 1867, after an expenditure of 3,000,000 dollars; but it is by no means improbable that it may be resumed, should "the Atlantic cable or cables 'give out,' or work with uncertainty." During his service on the staff of Col. Bulkley, engineer-in-chief of the projected line, the author made acquaintance with the shores and some of the interior parts of Kamchatka, Eastern Siberia, and Alaska. At Sitka, or New Archangel, as yet the only city in Walrus-sia, he was received with perilous hospitality by the Russian settlers, whose notion of the best way to put an

English gentleman at his ease is to intoxicate him with ardent spirits. "The first phrase of their language acquired by us was 'Petrnatchit copla' (fifteen drops). Now, this quantity—in words so modest—usually meant a good half-tumbler of some unmitigated spirits, ranging from Cognac to raw vodka, of a class which can only be described, by a Californian term, as 'chain lightning,' and which was pressed upon us on every available occasion. To refuse was simply to insult your host." The climate of the place affords its inhabitants a better excuse for habitual inebriation than drunkards can usually show; for "Sitka enjoys the unenviable position of being about the most rainy place in the world. Rain ceases only when there is a good prospect of snow. Warm, sunny weather is invariably accompanied by the prevalence of fever and pulmonary complaints, and rheumatism is looked upon as an inevitable concomitant to a residence in the settlement." About the only fact that can be urged in behalf of this lugubrious spot, which "is more unhealthy in fine weather than in wet," is its possession of two Sundays a week. The Russians having journeyed to Alaska by an eastward route, and the Anglo-Saxons having reached the same point by a westward line, there is a day's difference between their accounts of the past at their place of meeting. Hence the Russian Sunday falls on our Saturday, the inconveniences of which arrangement of the week were pithily summed up by the Californian journalist, who wrote to his editor, "The San Franciscan, who arrives at Archangel on Friday night according to his reckoning, will find the stores closed and business suspended on the following morning, and so will lose, not only that day, but the next too, if his conscientious convictions and the force of habit are only strong enough. On the other hand, the pious Alaskan merchant, who belongs to the Greek Church, will look with horror on the impious stranger who offers to trade or swap jack-knives on Sunday, but who, on Monday morning, suddenly assumes a clean shirt, black broad-cloth, a nasal twang, and that demurely, self-satisfied air, which is our national idea of a religious demeanour." Of Kalosh Indians seen at Sitka, we are told:—

"These people dwell in a long line of rude houses outside the settlement. Their dwellings are shanties on a large scale, with a small entrance, often circular in shape, and a hole in the roof to let the smoke out. The idea of these constructions must have been derived from the Russians; in some cases the very unusual circumstance of the sleeping-rooms being apart from the main chamber was to be observed. The Kaloshes are by no means a prepossessing people, and have a bad reputation. Their dress is commonly a blanket, at least in summer time; they frequently black their faces all over, and sometimes paint themselves in red, black and blue stripes and patches. They wear a pin of bone or metal stuck in their lower lip; this is said to denote maturity; it is at least never worn by the young. They appear to be more than usually lazy natives, probably from the fact that Nature has been so kind to them; salmon is abundant, deer and bear meat are to be had for the hunting, and the berries are innumerable. Their canoes are much inferior to those of the lower coast, whilst their skin 'baidarkes' (kyacks) are not equal to those of Norton Sound and the northern coast. Their grave-boxes, or tombs, are interesting; they contain only the ashes of the dead. These people invariably burn the deceased. On one of the boxes I saw a number of faces painted, long tresses of human hair depending therefrom. Each head represented a victim of the (happily) deceased one's ferocity. In his day he was, doubtless, more esteemed than if he had never harmed a fly. All their graves are much ornamented with carved and painted faces and other devices."

In his notes on Petropaulovski, Mr. Whympers

gives a brief and vivid account of the disaster which befell our marines at that station during the War with Russia, and some droll pictures of Kamchatkadale life and manners:—

"The day of our arrival had been fixed for the celebration of two Russian weddings, and a general invitation was at once sent on board. The ceremony commenced at 5 p.m. in the old Greek church, and was rather long and fatiguing. The congregation stood: in fact there were no seats in the church. It is the custom for the bride and bridegroom to be crowned. In this case the brides wore elaborate head-dresses, and considerate male friends—the 'best men' of the occasion—held the crowns for three-quarters of an hour a few inches above the ladies' heads. I imagine they were rejoiced when the pairs were satisfactorily spliced; I know that we were, for we were in tight uniforms, extremely gorgeous, and equally uncomfortable. It is the fashion apparently—when the persons, as in this case, are in the lower walks of life—to ask some more wealthy individual to be master of the ceremonies, and it is understood that he stands all the expenses! On this occasion the victim was M. Philippeus, a merchant, who brings his vessels annually from Hong Kong to Kamchatka, and the neighbouring coasts. He accepted the burden willingly, and gave a very liberal entertainment to the whole town, the officers of the *Variag*, ourselves, and the captains of several small vessels lying there. So many were invited that no one house was large enough for the purpose. The party was therefore divided, and the guests occupied two buildings, one on either side of the main street. The band of the *Variag* played outside, and a messenger was kept constantly running between the two houses to keep the merry party in either informed of the nature of the toasts. Such rousing cheers and 'tigers' had never been heard before in that usually sleepy, half-dead town. After the feast, we adjourned by invitation to the house of the Captain of the Port, where dancing was kept up with great vigour till the small hours next morning. The brides had to dance with every one present, and it was amusing to see them change from one gentleman to another: during the time occupied by one waltz they had ten or a dozen partners. Petropaulovski had not nearly ladies enough for the invited males, and, in consequence, a number of very clean and sedate Kamchatdale peasant women were asked for the occasion. Our efforts at conversation with the latter were ludicrous and extremely unsatisfactory; but with our Russian friends of the *Variag* we got along capitally, and found them splendid fellows. The following day the brides and their relations paid return complimentary visits."

Of another ball, where the dancers were Malemutes and Kaveaks moving in the best circles of Unalacheet society, Mr. Whympers gives the following picture:—

"In the village at Unalacheet, as in most others of the coast, there are buildings set apart for dances and gatherings of the people; at other times, indeed, they are used for occupations requiring space, as the manufacture of sledges or snow-shoes. These buildings may be regarded as the natives' town hall; orations are made, festivals and feasts are held in them, and the passing stranger is sometimes accommodated in them, as in an Eastern *caravanserai*. I witnessed several of their public dances; they are constantly, indeed, held during winter, and it is surprising to see how long and how much the older people are pleased by such very monotonous performances. In some of them the actors imitate and burlesque the motions of birds and quadrupeds, and of course here there is some scope for fun, while some of their songs are said to have some meaning, although on this point I cannot speak positively; the only ones I heard were the same words repeated over and over again. To one dance we were specially invited. On arriving at the doorway we found a narrow subterranean passage, two and a half feet high, crawling through which we at last reached the room, itself partly underground, and dimly lighted by blubber lamps. The Indians who were to take part in the dance, chiefly young men, were engaged in dressing, and bathing themselves in the liquid not before men-

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tioned. All were nude to the waist, and wore seal, deer skin, or cotton pantaloons, with the tails of wolves or dogs hanging behind, and feathers and cheap handkerchiefs round their heads. The elders sat on a bench or shelf, running round the entire building, and looked on approvingly whilst they consumed their own smoke, as is the manner of the Tchukchis, by swallowing all they made, and getting partially intoxicated thereby. Their pipe-bowls were on the smallest scale, and they even diluted their tobacco by mixing willow shavings 'fine cut' with it. Meantime the women were bringing in contributions of berries and fish in large 'contogs,' or wooden bowls, varying in shape from a deep dish to an oblong soup-tureen. The performance commenced by the actors ranging themselves in a square, and raising these dishes of provisions to the four cardinal points successively, and once to the skies with a sudden noise like 'swish!' or the flight of a rocket. May-be it meant an offering to the seasons and to the Great Spirit. Then came the feast; and that over, a monotonous chorus, with an accompaniment of gongs, was started. The gongs were made of seal-gut stretched on a circular frame, and were struck with a flat stick. The words of the song commenced, 'Yung i ya, i ya, i ya!' and continued throughout 'Yung i ya!' Then a boy sprang out on the floor, he was speedily joined by a second, then a third, till a circle of twenty was formed. Now they appeared violently attracted together, and now as much repelled; now they were horrified at one another's conduct, and held up their arms in warning gestures, and again all were friends and made pantomime of their happiness. In this performance there was nearly as much done by arms and bodies as with the feet. When there was a lull in the entertainment, small presents were brought round to all the strangers present; mine was a pair of boot-soles of seal skin. So decided an odour at length pervaded the ball-room that we one by one dropped off from the festive scene; the Indians kept it up for hours afterwards."

Mr. Whymper's capital and excellently illustrated book concludes with some noteworthy chapters on Californian society,—in one of which he observes, "San Francisco has eight daily papers and a dozen weeklies. One of these contains a new feature: 'Divorces' are inserted in the column with 'Births, Marriages, &c.' and it reads, 'Births, Marriages, Divorces, and Deaths!' In point of fact, the new heading is well supported."

The Life and Administration of Robert Banks, Second Earl of Liverpool, K.G., late First Lord of the Treasury. Compiled from Original Documents. By Charles Duke Yonge. 3 vols. (Macmillan & Co.)

A biography of a dead prime-minister who was an honest, well-intentioned, but not very illustrious man, may be a pleasant thing to read, but then it should not run to anything like fifteen hundred closely-printed pages. Were it in one volume, instead of three volumes, it would have a better chance of being read.

Some among us remember the late Lord well, albeit nearly a century has elapsed since he was born, namely, in 1773. Like his father, Sir Charles Jenkinson, afterwards Baron Hawkesbury, and ultimately Earl of Liverpool, Robert Banks Jenkinson was a Charter-House boy and subsequently an Oxford student. He was intended for political life, and first took his seat for Rye. The young fellow's first speech was in denunciation of the aggressive spirit of Russia; and it was, even in Pitt's estimation, a perfect success. Mr. Jenkinson's first vehement outpouring of eloquence was on the occasion when Fox proposed that England should enter into friendly negotiations with the French Government, then on the point of sending the dethroned King of France to the guillotine. The voice of Jenkinson was for war against a government

of regicides. He advocated a march of the allies on Paris, an idea which excited the ridicule of Sheridan, but which Jenkinson lived to see.

Jenkinson became Lord Hawkesbury (and a peer) after his sire, an old politician (who had been secretary to the most impassive of ministers, Lord North) had been raised to an earldom—of Liverpool. The son was Home Secretary to Addington and Foreign Secretary to Pitt, who had helped to turn Addington out. He was, moreover, the uncompromising opponent of the measure that would give emancipation to the Roman Catholics, but he lived to see and act upon the expediency of making concessions to that numerous body of the King's subjects. Nevertheless, this statesman continued to maintain that as long as the English Roman Catholics declined to take the oath of supremacy, so long at least should they be resolutely kept from all political power. He does not seem to have questioned the loyalty of the English Catholics, but to have dreaded an Italianizing influence that might lead to the kingdom being subjected in many things to a foreign priesthood and a foreign priest-king.

The late Lord Liverpool more than once had the premiership within his power of acceptance, but he did not avail himself of what seemed a golden opportunity till after the assassination of Spencer Percival, in 1812; even then, it was said that his greatness was thrust upon him, and that he became prime minister, to please "the Prince." Once, however, in the highest seat of authority, Lord Liverpool contrived to keep there through all those eventful years of war, distress, and contention which ended, in 1827, in what Mr. Yonge seems to consider an era of content, such as might have brightened the eloquence of Prosperity Robinson himself. "Since the time of Lord Burleigh, no one, except the second Pitt, ever enjoyed so long a tenure of power. With the same exception, no one ever held office at so critical a time."

This minister was one of those statesmen who are "etched," as it were, by their friends as men who will "stand no nonsense." It was he who made frame-breaking a capital felony. It was he who either would not or could not understand that people, who had gone through a terrible war, should grumble at the cost. There was that ignorant impatience of taxation on the part of the over-taxed, which neither Lord Castlereagh nor Lord Liverpool could comprehend. The impatience led to meetings that were characterized as seditious, and to free-speaking that was interpreted as treasonable. Thereupon came the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act. The press took on itself the justification of individuals who had been imprisoned for outspokenness, and of meetings that had been dispersed after the reading of the Riot Act. Pamphlets appeared supplementary to newspapers, and then ensued restrictions on printing, which gave double force to Sir Francis Burdett's favourite toast "The freedom of the press. It is like the air we breathe: if we have it not, we die;" but Sir Francis himself, it will be remembered, died a Conservative, and the people to whom he was so dear at the Covent Garden hustings thought no longer with affection of the Tribune in top-boots! Then came the popular heroine, Queen Caroline, with much vexation to Lord Liverpool, who looked into her alleged naughtiness, and found it of so shocking a quality that, for the honour of England, he brought in the Bill of Pains and Penalties, which was to consign her to infamy if not to destruction. But the popular voice sang "Non mi ricordo!" derisively in the streets; the "Ladies of England" rode up to Brandenburgh House with addresses of admiration. Public

opinion was so strong that Lord Liverpool withdrew his Bill, and felt very much as Lord Ellenborough did when he failed to get Hone convicted for libel, namely, that he had suffered a defeat which was a blow at his very life.

Lord Liverpool's public career began, as we have said, with an eloquent denunciation of the aggressive ambition of Russia. It closed in February, 1827, in the mildest possible strain, asking Parliament for an allowance for the dignified maintenance of the Duke and Duchess of Clarence. On the same night the Premier was struck with paralysis and never rallied again. Though he lingered till December of the following year, he can scarcely be said to have been thoroughly conscious during that long and melancholy period. Cyril Jackson said of him, on leaving Oxford, "Jenkinson will never make a great statesman," and a great statesman Lord Liverpool never was. His father founded, however, great expectations upon him. When Hugh Elliot was at Oxford, Dr. Markham told him that mathematics and "those kind of things" were all very well for gentlemen, but that classics and history were the studies that made statesmen. Jenkinson's father was wiser. Writing to his son, in 1780, he says, "I hope you will avail yourself of every leisure moment to apply yourself to algebra and the mathematics. You will thereby obtain not only a knowledge of these sciences, but by an early acquaintance with them you will acquire a habit of reasoning closely and correctly on every subject, which will on all occasions be of infinite use to you." Markham would have been shocked at Jenkinson's use and abuse of Livy, which the young student described as a good lounging book. On the other hand, Plato was looked upon by him with an almost religious reverence, but one which would have equally shocked the orthodox gentlemen who drank their port, said all the creeds when awake at church, and made more comments on the wine than on the confession of faith. Probably, the elder Jenkinson himself raised his eyebrows when he read, in a letter from his son, dated 1786, passages that elevated the philosopher to a height at which orthodoxy could not bear to see him: "To call the language of any of his treatises the language of Plato, is so to exhaust eulogy that nothing more can be said in praise of it. While his philosophy, he rates even more highly, affirming with an enthusiasm which requires," (says Mr. Yonge) "some deduction," that "his tenets were the same that were afterwards maintained by our Saviour, and such as were perfectly unknown both to Jews and Heathens."

Lord Liverpool's mind was never entirely free from confusion. He stuck to his opinions. He listened to the most violent of his adversaries with courteous and respectful attention, but although that adversary were as logical as he was violent, Lord Liverpool retained his own opinions. He went on to the end, the unrelenting opponent of all liberal sentiment and action. He could not see Saturn where others more truly saw the old deity. When a minister, he thought he had done all that was desirable if he got through the year without war, rebellion, or liabilities that defied all control.

Perhaps the most curious thing in these volumes, which really comprise a history of Europe during Lord Liverpool's life, is a letter in which the venality of Bonaparte's family is exposed. In 1803, the First Consul was determined to make England give up Malta: Lord Whitworth thereupon writes to Lord Hawkesbury:—

"Most secret and confidential.

"Paris, 14th March, 1803.

"My Lord,—A person entirely in the confidence

of M. Lucien Buonaparte has commissioned a gentleman who frequently visits me, and in whom I place confidence, to suggest to me the possibility of engaging the First Consul to consent to our keeping possession of Malta; that is to say, his family might perhaps be induced, for a valuable consideration, to obtain his consent to our retaining that possession. It is not meant that the First Consul would sell us Malta. But his relatives, who have such an interest in preserving the peace, might, by such means, be engaged to exert their influence over him for that purpose. And, in order to satisfy the First Consul, and to palliate the transaction, at the same time that a sacrifice of money is made to their avarice, some offer might be made to the pride of the First Consul, such as the acknowledgment of any Government not yet acknowledged, or assistance in shipping, or any other way in the recovering his authority at St. Domingo. * * Lord Hawkesbury, in his reply to the first intimation of this plan, had intimated a willingness to give Lucien 100,000*l*. This Lord Whitworth thought would be far too small a sum, but added, though as yet the parties had not specified what they expected, that, even though the expense should prove considerable, we were at least sure that that of one campaign, or even a long continuance of the present demonstration, would be infinitely greater; and he therefore hoped Lord Hawkesbury would be prepared to meet any terms he might have to propose, on the calculation rather of the money saved than of the money expended. * * A day or two later he had more precise intelligence to furnish. The member of Buonaparte's family to be bribed was not Lucien, but Joseph; who 'had been sounded, and was well disposed.' Not that Lucien was not equally willing to be 'well disposed,' but Joseph, it was thought, 'would unite more cordially with M. de Talleyrand than Lucien'; and Lord Whitworth had become more anxious than ever to 'impress upon Lord Hawkesbury that this business should not be marred by any parsimony. It might be necessary to dazzle these people by the fortunes they may make. It must not be considered as a common bribe, or as common secret-service money, but rather as a grand operation of state. . . . It must be considered that many persons are to be gained; all in the very first situations, and all partaking the pillage of this country [France]; consequently above the temptation of a common bribe."

Lord Whitworth thought that even a couple of millions spent in this way would be preferable to war and its consequences. He saw Joseph Bonaparte and other persons; but insuperable difficulties lay in the way of being outspoken, and in May, 1803, Lord Whitworth was recalled by his own Court,—

"Yet even now so intense was the eagerness of Joseph Buonaparte for his expected bribes, that he once more had recourse to the same agent, who had been originally employed to convey to Lord Whitworth an intimation that he might perhaps still be able to avert war, and yet leave us in possession of Malta, if we would acquiesce in the First Consul making an arrangement with the King of the Two Sicilies, by which he might become master of Otranto and Taranto. M. Huber found that Talleyrand had entertained the same views, and indeed that he had even sent a messenger to London to propose such a compromise. The simple Swiss gentleman assured the wily minister that he thought the proposal might be accepted; but the British Cabinet rejected it without a moment's hesitation."

The whole story is very singular, but it is just possible that it represents a comedy, the chief point of which, as far at least as regards the last incident, was the desire of gaining time. There are other stories of interest in these volumes, especially one of an attempt by the Duke of Wellington and Lord Wellesley to force Lord Liverpool to make their brother, Gerard Wellesley, a bishop. The resistance of the Minister was much to his credit, and Gerard never rose to be of higher dignity than Prebendary of Durham. Lord Liverpool stoutly refused to make him Dean either of Durham or of St. Paul's. In conclusion, this work may

be said to address itself rather to the political and historical student than to the general reader. For the latter, the text is too diffuse; for the former, the index is by far too brief.

NEW NOVELS.

Contrast; or, the Schoolfellows. By Holme Lee. (Smith, Elder & Co.)

THERE is so much that is humorous and tender and graceful, so much that only Holme Lee could have written, in the earlier chapters of 'Contrast,' that we experience no ordinary regret and reluctance in saying that upon the whole the tale falls altogether short of the high standard by which the author of 'Sylvan Holt's Daughter' and 'Mr. Wynyard's Ward' has instructed us by the excellencies of her past work to measure her literary performances. All that relates to Miss Gold's little school and Georgy Marsden's early boyhood is excellent. The intercourse which Mrs. Marsden, wife of a skilled mason, maintains with her half-brother, Sir George Cloughton, the contractor; the antagonism between old Mrs. Cloughton, resident under the skilled mason's roof, and Lady Cloughton, whose chief fault is her overpowering prosperity; the blunt rudeness with which honest Matthew Marsden, the working mason, exhibits his independence to his wife's half-brother; the 'airs' which only obscure the kindness and natural good sense of Lady Cloughton, formerly milliner at Kingston-on-Thames; and the modest virtues of Miss Gold's fine nature and gentle life,—are put before us in Holme Lee's happiest style. But no sooner has George Marsden, *alias* the Chump, left his native Kingston than the story begins to lose its interest, because the writer, instead of confining herself to affairs of her own personal knowledge, ventures to illustrate characters and modes of life which she can only have observed superficially and from a distance. And when the threads of the narrative have once fallen from the cunning hands that can knit a homely texture of romantic work without dropping a single stitch, her task has passed out of her power to complete it creditably. She picks the unruly material from the floor, and toils away in the vain attempt to accomplish her ambitious design with tangled skeins and cramped fingers. The collapse of the Universal Loan Company, the downfall of the Cloughtons, the doings of cholera in the Kingston back streets, John Froude's later relations with Anna Trent, are just as feeble and disappointing as the early parts of the narrative are vigorous and suggestive of coming pleasure. Why did not Holme Lee continue the story as well as she began it? Why cannot we, all of us, fulfil the promise of our first efforts? Holme Lee should not be disheartened by her failure; for what is good in her book puts it beyond question that in her particular department she is stronger than ever. We beg of her to keep to that department.

A House of Cards. By Mrs. Cashel Hoey. 3 vols. (Tinsley Brothers.)

It is a great pity the author of this book wasted her time on such a silly and uninteresting tale as appears here. There is abundant evidence of ability in the writing, but no talent could possibly render even tolerably amusing such a subject as Mrs. Cashel Hoey has chosen, or rather has had chosen for her. We say "chosen for her": we are glad to be able to throw the blame of electing such a plot upon another, and to speak of the writer only in terms of praise. We are informed by the dedication that the story was suggested by the author's father, to whom the work is dedicated, so that the only thoroughly bad point about the novel is

attributable to a gentleman. But for his unfortunate advice we should, in all probability, now have an interesting work in place of a dull one, as there are several good qualities about the style of the writing in 'A House of Cards' which are not so frequently met with, and only require a favourable opportunity to be well recognized. In the first place, there is a perfect freedom from all affectation or sensationalism—in itself a remarkable fact; and, further, Mrs. Hoey's power of analyzing minds and depicting character is by no means small. If to these we add a sense of humour, and a habit of writing English correctly, we have sufficiently indicated those good points which justify us in lamenting their waste upon this story of 'A House of Cards.'

The story in question is soon told, being of very simple, not to say feeble, construction. The widow of a convict marries a Mr. Haviland for money, and just before the marriage sends away her only child to be brought up under an assumed name. This child is well educated, but grows up in ignorance of its parents. Mrs. Haviland is herself ignorant of the child's doings and name, but lives a very comfortable life for some twenty years, apparently with no signs of remorse. Unfortunately for her comfort, when her child is of age he marries, but, becoming wearied, he quits his wife. He is then admitted as a drawing-master into Mrs. Haviland's house, where he falls in love with his mother's adopted daughter. Imagining his love returned, he murders his wife to be rid of her, is discovered, and hanged. Mrs. Haviland finds out his relationship to herself, and dies. That is the story.

Now, one cannot help wondering why such a tale as this was chosen. Was it for its moral? If so, we may ask what particular moral it conveys? It may be, Like father, like son; or, The son of a convict is sure to be hanged; or it may be longer and more prosy, If a cruel mother has her boy brought up under a false name, and he commits murder, it is the mother's fault, and she ought to die of grief. Which-ever it be, we trust the author may choose a better one next time.

Blindpits. 3 vols. (Edinburgh, Edmonston & Douglas.)

'Blindpits' belongs to that class of novels which puzzle one equally as to why they come into existence, and how they elongate themselves into three volumes. With nothing in the shape of plot, with next to nothing in the shape of power, and with about the same infinitesimal quantity of that racy, suggestive humour which in certain recent novels is an allowed compensation for every other deficiency, this one drags an unartistic length through nine hundred pages, in which almost the only incentive to curiosity is how the author can possibly keep his pot of words boiling much longer. Except, indeed, that it is not worth reading, we frankly confess there is no harm in the book. Its phraseology we believe to be unexceptionable, its grammar faultless, and none of its incidents improbable. The mental fatigue produced by studying and trying to remember an innumerable company of *dramatis personæ*, with marriages and offers of marriage on every alternate page, and domestic relationships ranging from the nearest degree of affinity to the most remote, is rather a pleasure than a trouble; it is a real relief, in some circumstances, to have something to think about and something to perplex one; and if 'Blindpits' did not give these occupations for the intellectual powers, it would be giving none at all. Nobody has the least doubt, for instance, from the moment when "sensation" first crops up in the middle

of the tale to the end whether good Barbara ever did a wrong thing in her life, or Mr. Grant the particular one he is suspected of; and the only remaining conclusion being that the black sheep of the story must be either nobody or one of the numberless persons in whose fate the reader has not the faintest interest, it is a matter of dreary indifference from first to last on which track the author may decide to travel. We do not like, as a rule, the principle of giving our readers the end of a novel before they have begun it; but in this case there is no clue to furnish them with, except that the whole fuss suggests the well-worn simile of a tempest in a teapot. Two certain truths can hardly fail to strike anybody as he plods through these volumes. One is, that the writer's forte is not novel-writing in the ordinary sense of the term. The other is, that he has some latent fitness for writing one style of book or another,—the only difficulty being to say which. More passages than one show that his pen has its mission, if he could but discover what it is. We choose one example. A feebly-drawn character of the genus Buzzyby lies dying, and all his life he has been pestered by a feebly-drawn character of the genus Stiggins.—

"'It's a queer thing—a queer thing,' said Mr. Dods, musingly, 'that I am to be persecuted by that man Pettigrew to the last. I've been thinking a morning o' what that lassie said; she said, 'What would I do if I saw Pettigrew in heaven?' Weel, I'm a great sinner—a great sinner; but if I do meet him there, he'll be different, and I'll be different, and maybe we'll can compluther, although it's no easy seeing how it can be. But there's ae thing: Peter'll aye be pushing ben, and I'll be mair than content just to be within the door, so we'll maybe no meet often. Ye mind what John Bunyan said when he saw the glory through the door as it opened and shut, 'I wished I were among them'; if I were just inside the door—inside the door.'—'For Christ's sake,' said Graham, softly.—'Ay, for Christ's sake—for Christ's sake,' said the old man, fervently. 'Oh, for what ither sake could we hope to be there?'"

Our only hesitation in quoting this passage is that it is exceptionally good enough to give our readers a very misleading notion of the merits of the book; our only motive in quoting it is to confirm what we have already said, that the author is capable of writing a book worth reading, though not a pseudo-sensation novel.

Broken Fetters. By Frank Trollope. 3 vols. (Newby.)

This novel is too full of incident. No sooner has the reader recovered from one thrilling affair than he is plunged into another; and the final result is a hazy idea as to battles, murders, pistols, escapes, banditti, love-making, and compound villainy, all rolled into one. The fact is, the book may be suitable for boys, who generally like a continual whirl of adventure in their stories; but for ordinary adults, who prefer some description of character, it is not adapted. Reasonable people get tired, or ought to get tired, of continual hairbreadth escapes, killings and attempts at killing, after a certain time, and rather incline to have a sort of pause, or breathing-time, between the sensational events; but here they have no such chance. From the very beginning to the end of the novel, the hero, his friends and his enemies, are never quiet. Should for a moment a lull occur, and a little light conversation be expected, the reader is, metaphorically speaking, crushed by the parties adopting the language only in vogue at minor theatres. The numerous "fiendish laughs," "mocking laughs," "by the mass," &c., act as a perpetual warning of the unreality of the tale;

and some of the flowery sentences, written in a First Murderer's style, provoke in the male mind an involuntary reminiscence of the well-known exclamation, "Bravo, 'icks!" as being the proper tribute to the kind of oratory indulged in. Sometimes the narrative becomes so very dramatic as to approach the ungrammatical and obscure, as witness the following: "The blood rushed to the cheek and temple of Vannina as she cast a look of scorn and disgust at this intrusion without even the civility of announcing his visit."

However, we are glad to say the work is perfectly free from any other affectation, and, with the exception of the faults we have indicated, is not badly written. The author should in future try to make his *dramatis personæ* more like flesh and blood; and we advise him to avoid secret wells, banditti and Jesuits, as things likely to lead him astray. If he will take to modern society, and employ modern language, he may obtain more favourable criticism. It should never be forgotten that success is not to be obtained by wild attempts to raise a fictitious excitement about never-ending battles, murders, and sudden deaths.

The Word! Universal Redemption and Salvation pre-ordained before all Worlds. Reverentially submitted to Christendom. By George Marin de La Voye. (Whittaker & Co.)

George Marin de La Voye, to give the new prophet his full name, is a gentleman of French descent and English birth. We do not think he has been trained in the school of the Prophets; indeed, he shows in many places a sad want of acquaintance with the mystical speculations of our own time. For him, Noyes and Ebel, Prince and Owen, have toiled in vain. 'The Word' is an original work, if it cannot be described as anything either better or worse; and being, as it is, happily free from all pretence of scholarship and logic, there is little need of discussing the hope of universal salvation here held out.

George Marin de La Voye claims to be inspired by the Holy Spirit. What he has to say is said in the way of a communication that needs no warrant beyond itself. A divine message is a divine message. We may take it, or we may reject it; but we must not tamper with it, since it is not amenable to mundane law. Now, this is what the new prophet of the times has to tell us: This earth is hell; the children of this earth are the fallen angels; and the stage of being which we call the life of man is the period of probation through which lost spirits have to pass in order to regain the heavenly heights from which they were cast down. This announcement, which we are asked to take on the prophet's word, reminds us of the Mormon doctrine of men and spirits. Young teaches that spirits are inferior in rank to men; and this conception is not only old, but acceptable to many persons, since it has found a place in Mohammed's paradise. But neither the Yankee prophet nor the Arabian prophet makes his children of the earth incarnations of the rebellious and overthrown angels. M. de La Voye is much bolder. If we were all devils to begin with, it is not wonderful that we get on so badly with each other, and that the general progress of the world is slow. But, if this tale be true, our poets have been making sad mistakes. Childhood, lying nearest to the fallen state, can hardly be that of innocence. What becomes of Wordsworth's trail of glory? In fact, the doctrine is uncomfortable, and, we should hope, will prove unpopular. The gentlemen who wish to derive us all from apes may be forgiven their trespass on our patience

rather than a preacher who tells us we are fallen spirits just clothed in a little flesh.

To make amends for our bad beginning, we are promised a certain and glorious end. All spirits are to be saved at last, universal redemption of the fallen having been pre-ordained before all worlds were made.

Into the dogmatic part of this argument we do not care to go. The natural history lies within our parish, and upon that we venture to pronounce a strong opinion. We do not like it. Other people, however, may; and on their behalf we announce this publication of 'The Word!'

Literary and Social Judgments. By W. R. Greg. (Trübner & Co.)

THE most remarkable feature of this book is the difference in tone, style, habit of thought, and general character between the essays which deal with literary and those which deal with social topics. This difference is all the more significant as some of the essays are semi-literary, semi-social; and those essays mark the steps of transition. When Mr. Greg is supporting a social theory, he is conspicuous for a plausible completeness, which serves to silence, if not to convince, opponents. His theory is all in all to him: he has mastered it, and he intends it to master others. All the details fit in with an exactness which shows that they have been measured for their places. It seems idle to take exception to some slight inaccuracies, while it is impossible to shake the main body of the argument. This is the impression conveyed by Mr. Greg's purely social essays; but when he turns to literature, we no longer recognize him. The total want of grasp which succeeds to his former completeness, the copious flow of independent details, not so much supporting the argument as supplying its place, the absence of any command of the whole subject, of any clear and consistent purpose kept in view by the writer if not by the reader, make his most elaborate articles the most disappointing, and place them on a lower level than they might fairly have attained. We have said that the mixed essays tend to explain this falling off from the higher standard. They show that Mr. Greg is nothing if not controversial. He is happy when he can find some one to disagree with him. It is worth his while putting forth all his powers to overcome an adversary. Merely to inform, merely to interest a tribe of careless readers, has no attractions for him. He will only construct when he has cleared the ground of what occupied it before. It is not his ambition to make two blades of grass grow in the place of one blade; but he would like to root up the one and plant something quite different. When he criticizes a book, he goes to work with apparent languor. Thus "Mildred Vernon" is a novel of more than ordinary excellence. It is unusually well written; the characters are well sustained; the conversations are natural and lively; the plot is one of great interest, and is skilfully developed. We seem to be reading the advertisements of the novels of the season. But as soon as Mr. Greg comes to the point on which he differs from the author of 'Mildred Vernon,' when he wants to enforce theories of his own by crushing those of an opposite tendency, he wakes up, as it were, from a study of the advertising columns, and becomes worthy of his highest efforts. Again, he is keen, incisive and ardent, marshalling facts, triumphing over obstacles, silencing opposition. It need not surprise us to find that he is not always just to the books which have stood him in such stead, and that at times the inherent weakness of his literary

criticism resists all the stimulus of his love of argument. Nothing can be poorer than his account of 'Monte Christo,' ending as it does with the trite remark that "the taste of the whole is shocking." His review of Kingsley and Carlyle, though by no means wanting in cleverness, reads like a series of short runs at both writers. In the beginning of the essay, Mr. Greg goes at both together; then he has a spell at Kingsley; then he makes a slight apology to Carlyle; and then he relapses into pure Kingsley. If he was not engaged all the while in combating the views of both men, we should be more apt to notice the looseness of texture; but throughout the essay Mr. Greg is so thoroughly in his element that this fault may pass unnoticed. Readers may think that they are being given a general view of Mr. Kingsley's writings when each of those writings, in turn, is brought under the scalpel.

When it is possible to build up a character by the accumulation of small traits, or when Mr. Greg's view of a character contradicts the prevailing notions about it, the results are often signally successful. Mr. Greg's essay on Chateaubriand contains some of his happiest touches. The several instances of Chateaubriand's inordinate vanity collected in the following passage are almost more characteristic of the man than the acts which gave public expression to the same feeling:—

"He never misses an opportunity, in season or out of season, apropos and mal-apropos, of instituting not exactly comparisons but *rapprochemens* between himself and every great and notable man whom he can in any way drag into the narrative. When he shakes hands with Washington, he cannot help contrasting the renown of the one with the then obscurity of the other, and surmising that the great American statesman probably forgot his existence the day after the presentation. When he describes his residence at the Vallée-aux-Loups, near Chateaufort, he adds: 'Lorsque Voltaire naquit à Chateaufort en 1697, quel était l'aspect du coteau où se devait retirer en 1807 l'auteur du *Génie du Christianisme*?' He cannot mention his birth without reminding us that, 'twenty days before him, at the other extremity of France, was born'—another great man—'Bonaparte.' On occasion of his departure for America, he observes: 'No one troubled himself about me; I was then, like Bonaparte, an insignificant ensign, quite unknown; I started together, he and I, at the same time; I to seek renown in solitude, he to acquire glory among men.' He makes Mirabeau say to him, apropos to nothing, what we know he said to others in a natural context: 'Is ne me pardonneront jamais ma supériorité.' And he adds *more consueto*: 'Lorsque Mirabeau fixa ses regards sur moi, eut-il un pressentiment de mes futuritions?' Once more: the following paragraph is headed *Mort de mon Père*. 'L'année même où je faisais à Cambrai mes premières armes, on apprit la mort de Frédéric II. Je suis ambassadeur auprès du neveu de ce grand roi, et j'écris à Berlin cette partie de mes mémoires. A cette nouvelle importante pour le public, succéda une autre nouvelle, douloureuse pour moi,' &c. Chateaubriand lost his shirt when campaigning with the emigrant army near Trèves: this reminds him (or makes him invent) that Henry IV. found, just before the battle of Ivry, that he had only five shirts left; he observes thereon: 'Le Béarnais gagna la bataille d'Ivry sans chemises; je n'ai pu rendre son royaume à ses enfans en perdant les miennes!'"

Chateaubriand's speech at the Literary Fund dinner, where he announced publicly that he had received that charity, which he either invented on the spot or refused to confess in his Memoirs, is equally in keeping with his character. Mr. Greg gives a full account of the scene when Chateaubriand, the distinguished foreign writer and French Ambassador in London, drew a graphic picture of a young writer, cast by cruel exile on these shores,

struggling to support himself by his pen, and relieved in his want by the Literary Fund. When the picture was complete, he added, "This case was my own; I was that unknown and destitute foreigner five-and-twenty years ago." Yet in his Memoirs, so far from alluding either to the relief or to the confession of it, he denies the whole story by implication, and merely says, "If the Literary Fund had existed when he came to London in 1793" (as, indeed, it did exist), "it might, perhaps, at least have paid his doctor's bill." Mr. Greg asks, very naturally,—

"How are we to explain the irreconcilable discrepancy between the two statements? The incident at the dinner could not have escaped his memory; for the description of the dinner in his Memoirs must have been written within a few days of its occurrence, and he remembers perfectly the names and the language of his *convives*. Was it that he thought the acknowledgment of having received at any period, under any circumstances, eleemosynary aid would not read well in the biography of so great a man? Was he willing to confess it *in vivo*, as a mere *verbum volans*, which might be forgotten to-morrow, but unwilling to embody it in a work which was to make him, and to be itself, immortal? Or was it, in truth, that no such relief had ever been afforded him; that the idea of proclaiming it before a brilliant assembly had tempted him into a theatrical clap-net; that he could not resist the desire to produce momentary effect; that, in fact, the whole story was a histrionic lie, which he uttered on the spur of the occasion, but naturally suppressed in the record of his life? Neither explanation is creditable; but the last, we suspect, is the one."

The other character which Mr. Greg succeeds in drawing with consummate excellence is that of Talleyrand. But then he takes a new view of Talleyrand's nature. He rehabilitates the latest demon of politics according to the precedent in the cases of Judas Iscariot, Catiline, Nero, Richard the Third, and Henry the Eighth. We admit that he does his work completely; but it is with the completeness that makes us reserve our judgment till we can examine the facts for ourselves,—the completeness which marks his social essays, and which often betrays him into paradox.

One of the social points in which Mr. Greg seems to us to err lies in his praise of the German system of restrictions on trade and marriage. In Germany, he says, there is not the same squalid and grinding poverty as there is in England. There is not the same mad competition. If men "have passed through the ordained curriculum and performed the required tasks, their future is provided for, and they have only to wait for its realization, which comes, indeed, a few years sooner or later, but about the advent of which they need to give themselves no anxiety. As functionary, or surgeon, or lawyer, or master tradesman, their turn will come as soon as the niche they were destined to fill becomes vacant; for the Government, by its complicated and vigilant arrangements, has taken care that no profession shall be over-stocked,—that there shall be no more aspirants than there are posts for them to fill." Now, if Mr. Greg looks to the effect of these restrictions in the place where they most prevail, he will find that there is no such certainty as to the turn ever coming. We have heard of men waiting for thirty-four years before being allowed to practise their own trades. The results of the marriage laws, to which Mr. Greg attributes the absence of grinding poverty, are, that illegitimate births sometimes exceed the legitimate, and that the death-rate of children is enormous. Again, Mr. Greg compares the expense of English and foreign life, and comes to this conclusion:—

"We have been at some pains (whenever an opportunity has presented itself) to analyze the reasons which make a very moderate income (say 400*l.* or 500*l.* a year) amply sufficient to maintain a family in elegance, comfort, and cultivated refinement, in other countries, and wholly inadequate in England;—and when rigidly examined and *pursued home to ultimate facts*, it is astonishing to discover how little is to be attributed to difference of cost in the necessities of life. The real difference lies, not in comfort, not in luxuries, not in social enjoyments, but in *style of living*, in things which either do not contribute to happiness, or which do so only because others have them and therefore we want them, or which, as far as really enjoyable or needed, could be had in a far cheaper form. Some day we hope to be able to go to the bottom of this matter."

Perhaps if he would go to the bottom of the matter, and would state the ultimate facts to which he pursues it home, we might listen to him. But in the mean time we cannot help thinking that a country in which meat is a third of the price it reaches in England, in which all native products are equally low, and domestic labour is even cheaper, must necessarily be suitable to people of small incomes, and enable those of moderate means to live in comfort or luxury.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

The Administration of the Holy Spirit in the Body of Christ. By George Moberley, D.C.L. (Parker & Co.)

THESE are the Bampton Lectures for 1868. They are beyond our description, as keeping close to theology, without any special contact with the controversies of the day. The following quotation will be enough: "It will be my object to show that, compatibly with the existence by successive ordination of persons expressly empowered to administer the life-giving and life-supporting rites of the Church, the real and ultimate possessor of all spiritual power and privilege, under Christ, is the Church itself; the Church entire; not apostles, not bishops, not clergy alone; but the entire body of Christ, comprising apostles, bishops, clergy, and lay people..." The clergy have long restricted the Church to themselves, and have to pay the penalty of their usurpation. Perhaps the retractions which are now made in many quarters may have been made in time. In the meanwhile, we should recommend the clergy to find out a new name for taking orders, which may drive out the phrase of "Going into the Church."

A Treatise on Optics; with the Application to Fine Art and Industrial Pursuits. By E. Nugent, C.E. (Virtue & Co.)

MR. NUGENT is probably of the United States, being ex-principal of an engineering college at New York. How do we call him? An American? he may be a Mexican. A statesman? that takes in Lord Palmerston. A Yankee? over and above the logical fallacy of a part for the whole, the term is not quite respectful. 'One of our Transatlantic cousins'! too long, as is also 'a citizen of the United States.' In this difficulty we appeal to the States themselves: how will it best please them to be designated, in short? If they will not choose for themselves, we must make an acrostic of the last-mentioned phrase and call each of them, a *Cotus*. This is a Middle Latin word which means a *colt*: the two words are probably connected in etymology. Accordingly, by mysterious coincidence, the acrostic of the political description sets forth the age among nations of the great Republic: a fine colt, but still a colt; and his gambols sometimes make the old horses stare. But we are wandering. Mr. Nugent has written on optics intelligibly, especially on what relates to lenses and their combinations. The book is very varied in its contents, theoretical, physical and constructive. We see various points on which a professedly scientific journal would raise discussions: for ourselves, we must be content with a general testimony to the author's ability. The book is as popular as a book can be which traces a ray all the way through a lens. We picked up a phrase,

whether naturalized in the United States we know not; but we like it. It styles $x-y$ as x above y , meaning that by which x is above y . As in " n^2-1 " expresses the square of the index of refraction above unity." It is true that there is nothing more than omission of the words "excess of the"; but these omissions are additions of power. He was a useful man who first dared to cut "multiplied into" and "divided by" down to "into" and "by." And he will be worthy of a statue, if he can achieve success, who shall contract numerator and denominator into numer and denomer.

Transition; or, the Passing Away of Ages, or Dispersions, Modes of Biblical Interpretation and Churches. Being an Illustration of the Doctrine of Development. By the Rev. Augustus Clissold. (Longmans & Co.)

Mr. Clissold is an old Swedenborgian; Swedenborgianism is (comparatively) an old sect; and section, not to say Sectarianism, is as old as plurality of men. The sects began by one destroying the other off the face of the earth. It does not happen now; but transition has prevented the stagnation of opinion. All the world cries out transition; all the world declares that a new order of things is in progress. The political sects are looking forward; the Apocalypses, as all know, are fixing dates from time to time, and naming a new day when the state of things is found unable to meet. Bishop Colenso says that we are entering upon a contest between blind church authority and the spirit of truth. And Mr. Clissold gives us, with moderation and learning, the Swedenborgian view of the present day. Now, this view is past our explanation. It claims to be spiritual, but none except the votaries can clearly make out that it is more than non-natural. It announces spiritual senses of words which are not in their known interpretations; and it must therefore be left, as to explanation, in the hands of those who profess to be able to prove their dictionary. But it must not be imagined that esoteric meanings began with Swedenborg. There was hardly a time when occult senses were not sought for. There were those in old time who could hardly let alone any number which is mentioned in the Bible. They cut 30 into two sets of 15, one for this world, one for the next: each 15 had a 7 for the Jewish church, and an 8 for the Christian. Those who like to inquire into the spiritualism of Swedenborg will find in Mr. Clissold exposition without extravagance, and large illustrations from ancient and modern learning.

The Fortunes of Cyril Denham. By Emma Jane Worboise. (Clarke & Co.)

In the end Mr. Cyril Denham's fortunes are much brighter than his deserts: for he is a weak, priggish, namby-pamby young gentleman, altogether unworthy of the nice girl with a good fortune whom he marries in the last chapter. His literary doings are told in the weakest parts of the story which, notwithstanding the inferior quality of the hero, is the most vigorous and agreeable tale that has come from Miss Worboise's practised pen. Though we should not like to have much intercourse with Mr. Denham in private life, he knows some charming people with whom we should be happy to exchange occasional visits, even at the risk of stumbling upon their far too lucky Cyril.

A Handy Book for the Calculation of Strains in Girders and similar Structures, and their Strength; consisting of Formulae and corresponding Diagrams. By William Humber. (Lockwood & Co.)

THE pocket-book of a civil engineer, by a civil engineer. The formulae are neatly expressed, and the diagrams good, better than are usually seen in white upon black.

Southward Ho! Notes on the Island of Corsica. By Thomasina M. A. E. Campbell. (Hatchard.)

A very slight, but a pleasant little sketch, of Corsican scenery and natural products, with some hints of the manners and customs of the people. From the way in which the island is described by routes, and from the frequent allusions to Murray's inaccuracies, the book reads rather like a series of marginal notes and fly-leaves. It might be called an interleaved handbook, with the handbook left

out. But though this gives her sketch a fragmentary look, we are grateful to Miss Campbell for not having reproduced Murray. Fullness of detail would have smothered the graces of the present work, and would, no doubt, have merely added to the large catalogue of dull books of travel. As the book stands, we may pick out bright little bits of description; we may give Miss Campbell the credit of having a keen eye for colour; and we may feel our appetite whetted for a feast on the work which Mr. Lear stands pledged by Miss Campbell to publish. A sketch, by Mr. Lear, of one of the Corsican forests forms a frontispiece to this book, and shows us an avenue of magnificent pines with the snowy mountains rising out of their topmost masses. While Miss Campbell is somewhat vaguely grandiloquent in form, she luxuriates in colour. Her accounts of the pale delicate pink flowers of the almond-trees and the brilliant pink bloom of the peaches,—of the fish which abound in the Corsican markets, and by their gorgeous hues recall the denizens of the enchanted lake in the 'Arabian Nights,'—are most striking. One fish, she says, is grey and silver; others have the brilliant green or vermillion patterns on a white ground; others are flame-colour or shaded purple; others green and gold, or winged with blue and green, or transparent as glass. The "mouflon," or wild sheep, is also a characteristic figure. After tempting us by such descriptions, it is only fair that Miss Campbell should assure us that travel in Corsica is safe. She is not a believer either in brigands or malaria. The great Corsican brigand, Serafino, once escorted a peasant girl home. Other bandits "tend their flocks in peaceful security"; and it seems that "no Corsican brigand ever molested any stranger." In this respect, they cannot be said to resemble the kings of the earth; but one is afraid they might claim an affinity at an awkward moment. It would not be pleasant to be naturalized by Serafino or the Brothers Bella Coscia if the process consisted in being stripped to one's stockings.

Scientific Geography for the Use of Schools and Private Students, by A. H. Bryce, LL.D. (Nelson & Sons), has the merit of being well adapted for purposes of education. The information is abundant, correct, and well arranged. To awaken the interest and assist the memory of the learner, historical and biographical particulars are connected with names of places, which is a good feature of the work. The quantity of syllables is marked, and the modern names of the more important places are supplied.—*An Introduction to the Use of the Tellurian Globe,* by J. L. Naish, B.A. (Wyd), contains a description of this globe—which is a simplification of an astronomical instrument exhibited before the Royal Geographical Society and at the Royal Institution—with directions for the solution of astronomical problems by persons possessing no knowledge of mathematics. By a mere mechanical apparatus questions are solved with a degree of accuracy which has astonished persons familiar with mathematical formulae.

Cicero's Orations. The First and Second Philippic Orations, with short English Notes, for the Use of Schools (Parker), is a favourable specimen of the 'Oxford Pocket Classics.' The editor deserves credit for the painstaking manner in which he has done his work. He has made good use of the editions of Mayor, Long and Halm. His introductions and notes furnish in a short compass precisely the information and assistance required. The renderings of passages not easy to put into good English, are at once accurate and idiomatic.—Less labour and care have been bestowed upon *The Thirtieth Book of Ovid's Metamorphoses and Epistle VII. of the Heroides, with a Complete Vocabulary and Illustrative Notes,* by C. Bilton, B.A. (Murray). The notes, which are meagre, chiefly relate to proper names; the vocabulary contains all the meanings required for the translation of the text. In one of the summaries, inserted at different points, Æneas is said to have gone to "Delphos," which is, of course, a misprint for *Delos*. Mr. Bilton speaks of classical mythology in such a way as to imply that he is unacquainted with the views of Prof. Max Müller and Mr. Cox on this subject.

A Comparative Grammar of the French, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese Languages, by E. A. Notley (Trübner), exhibits the essentials of the four grammars side by side, thus facilitating a comparison of the languages, and an insight into the principles common to all. The work is essentially of a practical character, being chiefly made up of declensions, conjugations, the most necessary rules, with examples, and copious vocabularies. It may be advantageously employed as a means of acquiring a good useful knowledge of the four languages.—*Cassell's English and French Correspondence for Young Ladies; being a Collection of Letters upon various Subjects, selected from the best Models* (Cassell), is not incorrectly described in the above title. The original letters are by eminent English and French writers, and the translation is put on the opposite page. Some of the English versions are more literal than idiomatic. This is a matter deserving of consideration in case of a second edition.

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we look ahead without seeing sand-banks, or the turbulent ripple on stony shallows.

For about one hour of the voyage the scenery may be described as interesting; bold hills dark with wood narrow the stream in places; then distant heights remind you of the slopes of the Black Forest as seen from the Baden railway. Then there are leagues on leagues of willows and alders, and flat meadows of coarse grass; and battalions of floating corn-mills animating a dull half-mile by the plash of their numerous wheels, and huge timber-rafts floating down which rival in length the Mississippi steamers "eight to the mile." And huge barges laden with firewood—and here and there an empty barge towed painfully upwards by half a dozen horses—or at times half a dozen laden barges at the stern of a powerful steam-tug. But even by steam the upward voyage is tedious work. Add to all this the *Strudel* and the *Wirbel*, which are no longer a terror, and villages with barn-like houses neither picturesque nor romantic; at times a Schloss looking like a factory, at times an picturesque ruin, a square castle-keep with two or three low square towers about it, and a Kloster or a church on a distant height: add the particulars, and then say whether the Danube deserves the rapturous descriptions which some travellers have written of it; descriptions which I tried earnestly to realize and identify, but in vain. It must be understood that I refer to the material landscape only; for who can be ignorant that the banks of the Danube are crowded with historical associations and memories of highest interest? These give a sentiment to the landscape which may compensate for lack of beauty.

The steamer stops at all the landing-places, but not promptly. The captain does not know how to slide his vessel up to the pier or pontoon so cleverly as the captain of a Thames steamer does. At Kloster Neuburg we saw two processions of pilgrims landing from two steamers; when all on shore, they knelt down in the road and beat their breasts while the priest prayed, but kept their eyes fixed on the bustle occasioned by our steamer; until, holding his crucifix aloft, the priest summoned them to re-form their train.

Now the Stephansturm, the cathedral of Vienna, comes in sight; the stream divides, sending off a broad and narrow arm. The latter, known as the Donau Canal, leads to the city, and not being navigable for large steamers we are transhipped at Nussdorf, with bag and baggage, into two small steamers, which paddle away between the big barges and the huge stacks of firewood that line the banks, and at 6.30 p.m. land us at the Franz-Joseph-Quai in Vienna. W. W.

ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

32, St. George's Square, Nov. 9, 1868.

THE account of the meeting of this Society, communicated by the officers, and published in the *Athenæum*, does not give the Report of the Committee, but does contain a vote of censure on me, and it is one of the many injustices inflicted on me for doing my duty as a Fellow of the Society, and causing inquiry by means of the *Athenæum* into its real condition. Under the circumstances I am compelled to appeal to your columns.

My proceedings have brought upon me a great extent of vituperation, which is well calculated to deter any quiet person from remonstrating against maladministration in a scientific society. Besides other offensive matter, circulars have been sent to 700 persons, Fellows of the Society, stating that I was proposed to be expelled, and I was so advertised in the *Athenæum*. I have been also subjected to the gross personal abuse of the *Anthropological Review*, for which the Fellows and myself have to pay, and also of two meetings, consisting of late and present members of the Council: in other words, of the Cannibal Club, the real ruling body of this abnormal society. The independent Fellows, who attended the first meeting, were thus deterred from attending the second.

Dr. F. M. Duncan, the mover of the amendment, and thereby chairman of the Committee of Investigation, has been unfortunate in his endeavours to conciliate, and has presided over a com-

mittee of partisans,—a fact well enough shown in the virulent speeches made by three out of the four, in derision of the recommendation to peace and forbearance inserted in the Report. Had I had the chance of consultation or of challenge, as I ought to have had, I should certainly have objected to two. Thus, the committee that had been appointed to investigate my charges put me out of court, and rejected the notes I contributed on the invitation of Dr. Duncan, for, as the speakers stated at the meeting, they were not going to be dictated to by Mr. Hyde Clarke. Luckily I had nothing to do with the committee.

The result is, that many serious charges have not been investigated, nor has a proper investigation been made. What the Committee pronounced to be "personalities," most material matters, they rejected; personal evidence was also rejected; and they proceeded on evidence impugned, what they called documentary evidence, the accounts and books of the Society, with the presence of the secretary. In drawing up the Report it so happens that, although it substantially proves my charges and proves very serious accusations against the management, it evades referring to my charges, except in one instance, and is open to be misunderstood and misrepresented as an apology for the management and a refutation of myself.

As it has nevertheless not suited the officials to furnish you with the Report, such as it is, I shall deal with it as best I can.

The Report proves these among other matters:—1. That, as I stated above, 1,000 Fellows have been elected in five or six years. 2. That the number of paying or subscribing Fellows is now about 450. 3. That this number has been diminishing of late years. 4. That of the Fellows elected there is a larger number now of those not paying than of those paying. 5. That this number of non-paying Fellows is in part accounted for by 250 deaths and resignations in five years, in which it is to be observed that of these only eleven resignations were reported in 1864, nine in 1865, six deaths in 1865, five in 1866; so that about 200 must have fallen off in 1866 and 1867,—a fact concealed until thus brought to light. How many of these resigning Fellows have been supplied with the *Review* one would like to know. 6. That the number of non-paying Fellows is in part accounted for by those in arrear, now 297 or nearly 300, who have also been supplied with the *Review*. 7. Although nothing is specifically said as to Fellows elected without their consent, or dummy Fellows, it is stated that thirty Fellows have been elected, whose addresses have never been discovered for the purposes of subscription. It does not appear whether those thirty are among the 250 dead and resigned, or among the 297 in arrear; perhaps among the number of dead. The Committee omits to state how many of those thirty were supplied with the *Review* and *Reader*, although their addresses were not known for subscriptions. 8. That there has been an undesirable mystery as to the proprietors and editors of the *Review*, and it may be added, that mystery is undisputed. 9. That the arrangement for subsidizing the *Reader* by copies was improper, but the Committee does not disapprove the subsidy by advertisements. 10. That the number of paying Fellows is as nearly as can be what I stated on the 21st of August, and that the number of non-paying and lost Fellows is larger. 11. That the amount of arrears is large and increasing, nearly 300 being now in arrear, at least one year. 12. That this arrear and the resignations cannot be chiefly due to the financial crisis, as alleged by the managers. 13. That this is due largely, as I stated, to the conduct of the *Review*. 14. That the Committee considers the *Review* gratuitously offensive to the Fellows in its references to "sacred subjects," and recommends the excision of such indecencies in future. It is not extraordinary that this comment on their propensities was received by the Cannibal Club with a general grin of derision. 15. That the debt was on the 31st of December upwards of 1,400*l.*, and is now above 800*l.* This gives, on the 31st of December next, an effective debt for the financial year of 900*l.* or 1,000*l.* The Committee say nothing as to the statement of the debt at 1,700*l.* by Dr. King, a member of the Anthropological Council. 16. That

the accounts of the Society have not been properly kept. 17. That the first two years' accounts are a mixture of receipts, debts, payments, and liabilities. 18. That the accounts are inaccurate, and that the balance at the bankers, entered 31st December last, was fictitious, being a loan. 19. That no statement of assets and liabilities has yet been published, as it ought to be, and the Committee recommend it to be done.

More may be added, but this is enough to show what a conciliatory committee has been obliged to reveal. It will now naturally be assumed by your readers that the Committee and Fellows passed votes of severe censure on the managers and council, and awarded me a complimentary vote of thanks.

The Committee and Fellows did precisely the reverse. The Committee excused the authors and participants in the misdeeds on the ground of absence of improper intentions, and, affirming against me a case of error on one point, they proceeded to censure me seriously. In my case there was no mitigation for unintentional or unavoidable error, where there were no proper accounts or statements, and none for good intentions. I was not a president or a council, not even a secretary or a director. There is this comfort to me, that had the Committee been able to make out a case against me on the other points, they certainly had the animus to have done it.

My offence was that I said there was a preferential payment to the *Review*, and so say I still, and on two grounds: first, that the debt 31st December of 1,400*l.* odd was needlessly created by paying officers of the society for the *Review* they carried on at its expense; and, secondly, that on the 31st December the debt due to the printer was about 800*l.*, of which only 242*l.* was for the *Review* in 1867, and that the rest was for publications and other printing of the Society, ranging over 1865, 1866, and 1867. The *Review*, consequently, was paid up in preference.

The Committee do not go into the case, but they say that on 31st December the debt to the printer for the *Review* was about 240*l.*, and for the Society's publications 240*l.* This statement I take to rest on some partial analysis of the printer's bill. This bill was in the statement of assets and liabilities seen by me at the anniversary meeting, and also stated by the Rev. Dunbar Heath, treasurer. The debts being over 1,400*l.*, he said there was this comfort, there were only three creditors, himself for loan of 200*l.*, the arrears of rent, about 400*l.*, so far as I remember, and the printer 800*l.*

So I leave the matter, and have nothing to alter; but my being right or wrong on this one point, partly a matter of opinion, will not affect the main points. There is quite enough left, and it is consequently of no use to mislead the Fellows and the public by affirming that Mr. Clarke is wrong on this one item of preferential payment, and that his conduct is most scandalous in not making a public apology on the earliest opportunity.

After what has transpired the Cannibal Club is quite welcome to express its confidence in the President; and I now take "the earliest opportunity" of "publicly" stating I do not retract the statements either publicly or privately, and that I am sure I am not called upon to do so by members of the scientific world. As to retiring from the Society, it is very unpleasant to belong to it, but as a matter of principle and public duty I am not to be forced out of it now, having paid my contribution as a life member, nor to retire at the behest of some thirty persons combined together outside for the propagation of purposes of their own, in defiance of twenty times the number of members of the Society, and of the opinions of the scientific world at large.

This matter has now taken larger proportions than the simple question of whether an individual like myself is right or wrong on one single point, or in his mode of treating the subject. It is evident the disposition is not to allow it to be got rid of as a personal controversy. The real questions that affect the public are: Shall a body calling itself a scientific society be maladministered without challenge, to the discredit of scientific societies in general? Shall the officers of a scientific society surreptitiously carry on anonymous publications at its expense,

not disclosing that they are the proprietors and conductors, but puffing themselves as independent persons? Shall a Fellow of a society be entitled to demand inquiry into transactions and accounts which require explanation? Shall he be expelled for appealing to the *Athenæum*?

I have got into the unpleasant position of being made a plaintiff to try these questions; and though since my return I find these are days when the moral courage of the citizen and the public opinion of the mass are not what they used to be, and that a man is exposed to fight his battle with small help, I trust I have enough of the old spirit of an Englishman to go through the struggle and bear the brunt. Outside of the Society I have met with encouragement enough, and it is some comfort that, at the risk of expulsion threatened in the columns of the *Athenæum*, an appeal can be made by Mr. Brookes and myself to the scientific world against the clique claiming for itself the title of the Anthropological Society of London, and of the foremost and most flourishing scientific society of the day.

HYDE CLARKE.

EMBOSSING PRINTING FOR THE BLIND.

33, Cambridge Square, Nov. 7, 1868.

In reply to the letters of Messrs. Blair and Taylor, I have only a few remarks to make. Mr. Blair states that "To obtain the Holy Scriptures, a blind man is called upon to procure a payment of from 6*l.* 10*s.* to 13*l.*" It is not necessary for my present purpose to point out the inaccuracy of this statement as regards the selling price, for the important part of Mr. Blair's assertion is, that a blind person has to procure such payments before he can acquire the Holy Scriptures, whereas the fact is that the British and Foreign Bible Society grant those books to the blind in Moon's, Frere's and Lucas's type at half-price on the recommendation of a subscriber, and *gratuitously* if the applicant is in indigent circumstances. The London Society for teaching the blind to read, acts in a similar way with regard to books in Lucas's type.

The real question at issue therefore is not one of cost to the blind, but of the form of type which shall prove most acceptable to the blind themselves. Again, Mr. Blair disputes the conclusion deducible from my experience in London: "First, after extensive inquiry among the blind in London, I have not met with any who, in adult life, have been able to read by the Roman system. Secondly, among the great number who have been taught as children in asylums on the Roman system, I cannot find any who continue to use it. Both these remarks apply only to London, where there is great facility for the blind to acquire whichever system they prefer." Subsequent inquiry confirms me in these statements. The fact that there are blind elsewhere beyond the reach of instruction in other systems, who, as adults, learn the Roman type, and who, having learnt it as children, still continue its use, does not prove the inaccuracy of what I have advanced. Quoting the words of the Director of the Bristol school, Mr. Blair states "that when their hands become hardened with work, they frequently desist from reading altogether." This is a notorious fact, and results from the want of tangibility and the complicated form of the Roman letters. From Lausanne and Illzach Mr. Blair quotes opinions favourable to the Roman letter, but I may remark that the institutions of both these places have adopted the French dotted system, and are now strong in their condemnation of the Roman type. The value of Mr. Taylor's testimony, as cited by Mr. Blair, is somewhat impaired by the fact that at the York Asylum, where he was formerly Director, his favourite system, which he is now seeking to establish at Worcester, has been discontinued, Alston's Roman capitals and Moon's system being employed exclusively. But it is sought to avoid the objections to that form of the Roman character, which consists of small letters and capitals, by increasing its size.

If the Worcester Society would confine itself for the present to printing specimens of its type, and would submit these fairly and extensively to those who will have to use it, for their approval, it would have the hearty sympathy and co-operation of all

those who, like myself, seek simply the welfare of the blind. It is because they *assume* that which ought to be put to the test of experience, that, speaking in behalf of the blind, I object to their whole plan of operations.

Mr. Taylor in his communication regrets the angry tone which, he says, pervades my letter. I must leave your readers to judge if such an accusation is well founded. He blames me for not answering his previous letter more in detail. This, I can assure him, did not arise from any of the motives he suggests, but simply from a wish not to import into the discussion anything irrelevant to the main question at issue: *ex. gr.*, in his first letter he quotes the decision of the Berlin Committee, and this he considers of sufficient importance now to translate. It merely amounts to this,—that the Berlin Royal Institution for the blind has declined Moon's alphabet, and the studied want of courtesy with which it has done so does not add to the importance of their decision. Mr. Taylor also accuses me of inconsistency. Had he quoted my letter fairly, he could not have done so: of this your readers may judge for themselves. The rest of his observations are of a merely personal character, and do not affect the question which still remains, viz., *What is the form of type best suited for general adoption by the blind?*

T. R. ARMITAGE, M.D.

P.S.—Since sending you the above, I perceive that another letter from Mr. Blair has appeared in your columns. The American statistics which he objects to are derived from the official returns of the asylums to their several State Legislatures; they are, therefore, not likely to *understate* the number of those who can be taught to read. He goes on to say, that it is better that few should learn to read by the Roman letter than that a character should be used by which all may learn. Comment on this is needless. He continues: "If then the difficulties of deciphering Roman type are considerable, would not common sense suggest, rather, that the size of this character be increased to the size of its rivals than that it be abandoned for methods utterly and confessedly incapable of universal adoption?" The latter part of this sentence simply begs the whole question. As to the former, Moon's type, which Mr. Blair seems to take for his basis of comparison, is far larger than is necessary for the majority of the blind engaged in manual labour; and this can be proved by very extensive experience. Again, he says he could prove that it "is not only unnecessary but positively vicious to adopt a separate measure of education for the blind," and deplores the mischief which may result from my "well meant but unphilosophical effort." Mr. Blair seems to forget, in his zeal for the Roman system, that I am no partisan; but the evidence which has satisfied him is, in my opinion, very insufficient, and your readers will, I think, agree with me that it is not unphilosophical to submit the question of type to the consideration of impartial practical men, especially at a time when it is sought to raise a large sum for the propagation of a system condemned by the great majority of those for whom it is intended. In closing this correspondence, allow me to thank you, in the name of the blind, for the opportunity you have afforded them of making their real wishes known.

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

Mr. Gladstone has prepared an explanation of his Opinions on Church and State, which, under the title of a 'Chapter of Autobiography,' is to be published on Monday next, by Mr. Murray, of Albemarle Street.

Mr. Bickmore, whose Travels in the East Indian Archipelago, and across China, were so eagerly received by the Royal Geographical Society, last year, has been appointed Professor of Natural History, in Madison University, U.S. The University has purchased the collection of Natural History gathered by him in the Indian Seas.

Under the title of 'Seelen-Bräute,' Dr. Frese, of Stuttgart, a member of the German Chamber, has produced in Berlin a German edition of Mr. Dixon's 'Spiritual Wives.' The account of Ebel's

Pietistic movement has created such excitement in Prussia, that efforts are being made in high quarters to induce the Government to suppress it. Such an act would, of course, make the publisher's fortune. Count von Kanitz, on the other side, has issued a statement in explanation, which is extremely curious, as coming from one of the male chiefs of the Königsberg circle.

Mr. Frederick Whympere, of travelling fame, has accepted an engagement on the *Alta California*, a paper published in San Francisco. Mr. Whympere has been making a tour of the wine districts of France and Germany with a view to his future usefulness in "Frisco." He starts for the Golden Gate early next year.

Intelligence has been received that Mr. Cooper, who is at the head of the Expedition for the Survey of the Yellow River, made his way as far as Bathang, when the Chinese authorities refused to allow him to cross over into Tibet. Under these circumstances he determined to fall back on the Bhamo route, in the direction of Calcutta.

While many are clamouring for the abandonment of Greek and Latin composition, the University of London has recognized its value, by making it one of the requirements for the degree of D. Lit., or Doctor of Literature, which it has recently instituted, and in one instance conferred. This title is attainable by all graduates of an English university or that of Dublin, on passing two examinations with not less than a year between them. The first, which entitles the successful candidate to the degree of M.A., includes the Greek and Latin classics, with prose composition in Greek, Latin and English, and the history of the world to the end of the eighteenth century. The subjects of the second are the English language, English literature and history, French or German language and literature, with either of the following languages: Anglo-Saxon with Icelandic, Sanskrit, Arabic, Hebrew with Syriac.

The opening meeting of the Society of Arts will be held on Monday, the 23rd of November, when the Chairman, Lord Henry Lennox, will deliver the opening address.

Mr. G. W. Child, editor of the *Philadelphia Ledger*, one of the best newspapers in the United States, is at present in London, seeking change of air and scene for the benefit of his health. Mr. Child has been largely engaged in the publishing trade, first in connexion with the Messrs. Lippincott, and subsequently on his own account, and is a gentleman who has done good service in letters in many ways.

From the Hydrographic Office of the Admiralty there has just been issued a large thin book entitled 'Pilot Charts for the Atlantic Ocean.' Four of the charts represent a year, one for each quarter; and in each one the prevalent winds and weather over the North and South Atlantic Oceans are indicated, so that any pilot or captain may ascertain what wind and weather he is likely to fall in with wherever he may happen to be. As the whole surface of the charts is divided into sections like a chess-board, reference to any one is easy, while ample explanation is given in the marginal notes. The engraving is well executed, and presents the subject clearly to the eye. Capt. Richards, the hydrographer under whose care these charts have been published, explains that they are not founded on data so rigorous as those required in charts involving the safety of navigation, and are to be regarded simply as aids to the navigator,—but most valuable aids, for they will assist him in carrying his ship across those parts of the ocean concerning which there is at present much diversity of opinion and practice. The fifth chart represents the currents of the whole of the Atlantic, and we are glad to see that this publication is to be followed by a similar series for the Pacific and Indian Oceans. They will be highly interesting to others as well as mariners.

Mr. David Forbes has made a series of experiments and observations with a view to arrive at definite conclusions as regards the contraction, on cooling, of the silicated rocks which compose so large a portion of the earth's crust. He found that large

masses of artificial stone, weighing half a ton, were as large after cooling as the wooden models from which the moulds had been made. The principal ingredient in the castings here referred to was Rowley Rag, a basaltic rock, which figures largely in a range of hills near Dudley. Experiments with glass show the shrinkage to be not more than 1½ per cent. of the whole volume. From these and other facts Mr. Forbes draws the conclusion that "the amount of contraction which silicated rocks undergo in passing from the molten to the solid and cold state, must be very much less than usually taken for granted, and that, in consequence of this, the effects due to such contraction, when considered in relation to certain geological phenomena, have been much over-estimated."

Schoolmasters and pupils who are preparing for the next Oxford local examination will learn with vexation—if they are not already informed—that the French subject for juniors has just been altered. Instead of Hauréan's 'Charlemagne,' as announced in the programme, dated May 9th, it is to be 'Lazare Hoche,' by Émile Bonnechese. No explanation is given, but there must have been culpable neglect somewhere. The expense, as well as loss of time and labour, occasioned by this change might have been avoided by due consideration before fixing upon the subject for examination.

We are requested by the publishers of the *Quarterly Journal of Microscopical Science* to state that that Journal will continue to be published as usual by the Messrs. Churchill, and edited by Dr. Lankester and Mr. E. Ray Lankester. The only change consequent upon Dr. Lankester and Prof. Buxton ceasing to edit the *Transactions of the Royal Microscopical Society*, will be that the *Transactions* of that Society will not be published separately in the pages of the Journal.

There is no end to the grammatico-logical questions which come before us. A judge, discharging a man upon his recognizance to come up for sentence if called upon, tells him that if he behave well he will probably die before he hears any more of the matter. At this "Hibernicism" the newspaper says the whole court roared with laughter. There was no bull at all, for two reasons. First, a man who fires a shot at an offending little girl may hear of it *after death*; and most of those who laughed profess to believe this. But we will concede to the laughing audience that this allusion was not in the mind of the judge. Let us turn then to the grammatical view. The laugh is a proof of the progress which the logical principle is making: but it does not always show itself discreetly. The question is this—Has that which is never to happen *a before* and *an after*? No after certainly; but in common minds and common language it has a *before*. Is it absurd, ungrammatical, or illogical, to say to a person who is attempting the impracticable, You will ruin yourself before you succeed? When a man says, "I will see you hanged first," he means that he never will: some persons explicitly add, "and then I won't." The laughing logicians of the court had the idea that *before* and *after* are alternatives: this is not true. The alternative of *before* is "*at, or after, or never*." Try it: you will get to the moon before Christmas, or you will not get to the moon before Christmas; this seems clear. If not, then you get to the moon at Christmas, or after Christmas, or never. The judge's remark left open whether the criminal, not being called up during life, would be called up at death, after death, or never. He did not explain that the Court does not pass sentence upon all persons in *articulo mortis*, and does not summon ghosts; so that *never* is the only practical alternative. And probably the remark was suggested by the prisoner being an old man. A Scotch clergyman was talking very seriously to a parishioner about drinking, and hoped he had produced some effect. And so he had, for the parishioner said "Ye're right, Sir! whisky's a bad thing, especially bad whisky!" And we say that logic is a puzzling thing, especially bad logic.

Official returns show, that in 1867, 49,814 cwt. of books were exported from England, the value of which was 610,538*l*. The value of those exported to the United States was 160,311*l*; to British

North America, 52,673*l*; to the West Indies and British Guiana, 11,861*l*; to Australia, 113,816*l*; to British India, 43,639*l*; to Egypt, 65,127*l*; to South Africa, 20,865*l*; to France, 43,535*l*; to Hamburg, 13,160*l*; to Holland, 10,710*l*; to Italy, 21,879*l*. The imports of books to England from abroad during the same period amounted to 10,272 cwt., and the value to 122,717*l*.

Dr. Acland says, in his address to the British Medical Association, "Chemistry, which used to be chiefly analytical, has now become enthusiastically synthetical." There are virtually no limits to the substances which can be made. Berthelot makes a calculation of the number of combinations with acids of certain alcohols. He says, "If you gave each a name, allowing a line for the name, then printed one hundred lines in a page, and made volumes of a thousand pages, and placed a million volumes in a library, you would need fourteen thousand libraries for your catalogue." He, therefore, properly calls such bodies infinite, instancing the synthetical construction of the alcohol and aldehyde series, of the organic acids, of the amides, of urea, and the millions of possible bodies which loom in the future,—certain to be made, waiting to be made, the possessors of qualities suspected, but unknown.

The Spenser Society has just issued the second Part of its very handsome folio reproduction of the 1630 edition of 'The Works of John Taylor, the Water Poet.' London printers must look to their laurels. We doubt whether any club-book has been turned out from the press better than the present one. But type and paper alone are not enough for an *edition*; and we have yet to see of what mettle the Society's editors are.

There is philosophy *a priori* and philosophy *a posteriori*; there is also folly *a priori* and folly *a posteriori*. The first pair are good in combination; the second in opposition; their only use is to destroy each other. They have been sometimes employed for that purpose. Good Sir Thomas Browne, in his 'Pseudodoxia Epidemica,' commonly called his treatise on 'Vulgar Errors,' is every now and then dextrous at this *absurdum ab absurdo*. Perhaps his finest instance is his way of disposing of the amphibena, or double-ganger, as it might be translated: not meaning a ghost which looks like a living man—but a snake. This creature, which is of much the same thickness at both ends, and runs equally well backwards and forwards, got the credit of having two heads, one at each end. We should much like to see a clergyman of this sort, Ritualist at one end and Rationalist at the other, making both ends meet and fighting it out. Browne completely upset the story by pointing out that "if (as it is determined) that be the anterior and upper part wherein the senses are placed, and that the posterior and lower part which is opposite therunto, there is no inferior or lower part in this animal; for the senses being placed at both extremes, doth make both ends anterior, which is impossible." The destruction is complete, bad as the logic may be; but it must be confessed that examination of the animal gave a more satisfactory demolition. The sea-serpent has been destroyed by reasoning not much unlike Browne's; and there is nothing better, as yet. To cook this hare, we must first catch it.

It is odd what a different impression is sometimes made by a nation on its contemporaries and on subsequent historians. Mr. Froude, writing of the English in Henry the Eighth's time, notes "how duty to the state was at all times and in all things supposed to override private interest or inclination, . . . the common weal, in a high and remarkable degree, being presumed to be the first object with every honest man" (*History*, i. 11). A contemporary historian, Polidore Vergil, marks the singular want of this quality in Englishmen:—"Notwithstanding the English nation of all things doth the least make account of the common wealth, but are to much assotod on the bellie, . . . yeat (thankes bee to Godd) the Englishe imperie consisteth on sewer pillars" (*Translation*, i. 280). There is, doubtless, truth in both views. Mr. Froude attributes to the nation the high notions of the statesmen who told the people what they ought to do and think. Polidore Vergil spoke of the more

prosaic reality that he saw around him. The belly was a valuable article to the early Englishman, and though he looked after it to the extent of assotment on it, he could give it up for his country on special call.

In view of the observations of the transit of Venus that will doubtless be made in 1874 and 1882, Mr. E. J. Stone, of Greenwich Observatory, has re-discussed the various observations made in 1769 by Father Kell, Wales and Dymond, Capt. Cook and others; and he states that the investigation has led him to the "detection of several grave and fundamental errors which have previously been made in the discussion of these results, and to a value of the solar parallax entitled to be received with confidence." This value is 8''·91, which confirms the long-accepted conclusion that it was "about 8''·90," and gets rid of the serious discrepancies which have long perplexed astronomers.

A Report on Meteorological Observations in the North-Western Provinces of India has been printed at Roorkee. It contains the record of weather for the year 1867, from twenty-three stations—three on the hills, twenty in the plains—which include all the physical features of the country. This is important, as observations made at different elevations afford means of comparison which can be turned to good account by meteorologists. Dr. Murray Thomson, who has drawn up the Report, states that native doctors and medical students have been trained to use the instruments, and from them, when practising their profession in different parts of the provinces, trustworthy series of observations may be obtained. At Agra, lectures on the use of the instruments were given to the students in Oordoo, and money prizes were awarded to the most proficient. Any one wishing to ascertain the temperature and other meteorological phenomena of the "cool season," the time of the hot winds, the rainy season, and of the weeks when periodical changes are taking place, will find them all clearly set forth in these tables. Dr. Thomson hopes eventually to show the connexion between weather and disease; at present the data are too uncertain to enable him to do more than show an access of cholera on a sudden fall of temperature.

On the 1st of November last one of the most important Dutch lines of railway was thrown open to the public. It runs from Utrecht to Waardenburg, and forms a link of the section Utrecht-Bois-le-Duc, leading to Brussels and Paris. Bois-le-Duc was on that same day admitted into the Dutch railway system, and put in communication with the railway that now stretches away from Goes (in Zealand) to Venlo (in Limburg). It is probable that the section Bois-le-Duc-Waardenburg, which now alone remains unfinished in this part of the country, will be ready by the middle or end of next year, so that 1869 will witness an unbroken communication between Amsterdam and Paris. Of all the lines to be built by the State according to the Act passed in 1860, this one from Utrecht to Bois-le-Duc is the most difficult and costly. Three tremendous bridges had to be constructed over three large rivers, the Meuse, near Hedel, the Waal, near Zalt-Bommel, and the Lek, near Culemborg. The last is now open for traffic, and the others are nearly ready. The bridge near Culemborg, half-way between Utrecht and Waardenburg, is one of the grandest works of engineering skill. It consists of one arch of 492 English feet span, one of 262 feet, and seven arches of 57 feet span each, or 399 feet; total 2,063 English feet. It is constructed on the "fish-shaped girder" system. The one near Zalt-Bommel will measure 2,680 English feet.

THE SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.—THE SEVENTH ANNUAL WINTER EXHIBITION OF SKETCHES AND STUDIES by the MEMBERS will OPEN on MONDAY NEXT, November 23rd, at their Gallery, 5, Pall Mall East. WILLIAM CALLOW, Secretary.

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL WINTER EXHIBITION OF CABINET PICTURES by BRITISH AND FOREIGN ARTISTS is NOW OPEN at the French Gallery, 120, Pall Mall, from Half-past Nine till Half-past Five o'clock.—Admission, 1*s*.; Catalogue, 6*d*.

EXHIBITION OF CABINET PICTURES in OIL.—Dudley Gallery, Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly.—The Exhibition is OPEN Daily from Ten till Five.—Admission, 1*s*.; Catalogue, 6*d*. GEORGE L. HALL, Hon. Sec.

PICTURES and WATER-COLOUR DRAWINGS of the British and Foreign Schools of Painting selected with great care from the Studios of the different Artists. In calling attention to these, T. M'Lean has great satisfaction in soliciting a visit from Collectors and others to inspect them.—T. M'LEAN'S NEW GALLERY, 7, Haymarket, next the Theatre.

MR. MORBY'S COLLECTION OF MODERN HIGH-CLASS PICTURES is ON VIEW at the Royal Exchange Fine Arts Gallery, 54, Cornhill. This Collection contains examples of Rosa Bonheur—Clarkson Standfield, R.A.—Meissonier—Alma-Tadema—Gérôme—Frère—Landelle—T. Faed, R.A.—John Phillip, R.A.—Leslie, R.A.—D. Roberts, R.A.—Frith, R.A.—Goodall, R.A.—Cooke, R.A.—Pickersill, R.A.—Erskine Nicol, A.R.A.—Le Jeune, A.R.A.—Ansell, A.R.A.—Frost, A.R.A.—Pettie, A.R.A.—Yeames, A.R.A.—Dobson, A.R.A.—Cooper, A.R.A.—Gale—Marks—Liddell—George Smith—Linnell, sen.—Peter Graham—Oakes—H. W. E. Davis—Baxter. Also Drawings by Hunt, Cox, Birket Foster, Duncan, Topham, F. Walker, E. Warren, &c.—Admission on presentation of address card.

AN EARTHQUAKE IN ENGLAND.—New Lecture, by J. L. King, Esq., 'On Earthquakes and Volcanoes,' Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday, 2 and 7.30.—Prof. Pepper's Lecture on 'The Solar Eclipse Seen in India,' Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 2 and 7.30.—New Electric Organ, daily at 2 and 7.30, by Herr Schalkenbach.—'La Belle France and the Maid of Orleans,' daily at 4 and 6, by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Coote.—An Old German Story of alleged Spiritual Visitations, entitled 'The Spectre Barber,' with Marvellous Effects.—At the ROYAL POLYTECHNIC.

SCIENCE

SOCIETIES.

ASTRONOMICAL.—Nov. 13.—Admiral Manners in the chair.—The Rev. E. Crofton and Sir W. Thomson were elected Fellows.—The following papers were announced, and partly read:—'On the Nebular Hypothesis,' by Mr. Kirkwood; rediscussion of the observations, 'Of the Transit of Venus,' 1769, by Mr. Stone, 'On the Total Eclipse, August 18, 1868,' by Mr. Tebbutt, Capt. Reed, and Mr. Smith, 'On the Transit of Mercury, November 5, 1868,' by Prof. Chevallier, Mr. G. Williams, Mr. Prince, Prof. C. P. Smyth, Mr. Lassell, the Astronomer Royal, Mr. Stone, Mr. Penrose, Capt. Noble, Rev. Dr. Selwyn, Mr. Buckingham, and Mr. Huggins, 'On the Discovery of the Variable Star γ Coronæ,' by Mr. Barker, 'On an Automatic Transit Instrument,' by Mr. Kincaid, 'Occultations observed at Durham,' by Prof. Chevallier, 'On the Early History of Achromatic Telescopes,' by Mr. Chambers, 'Description of Drawings of Mars,' and 'Occultations of Stars,' by Mr. Joynson, 'Sun Spots, August 18, 1868,' by Mr. Loewy, 'Tried Notes of Zenith Telescopes,' by Mr. Davidson, 'On a Possible Mode of Viewing the Red Flames without an Eclipse,' by Mr. Huggins, 'Lunar Crater Linnæ,' by Mr. Birt, 'Letter to Mr. Pritchard,' by Sir J. Herschel, 'Proposed Spirit Level,' by Major Tennant, 'Remarks on Mr. Stone's paper 'On the Transit of Venus, 1769,' by Mr. Newcomb, 'Remarks on the Preceding,' 'Determination of Constant of Nutation,' and 'On Aboul Hassan's Catalogue of Stars,' by Mr. Stone, 'The Anticipated Weather of 1869, and 'Cause of Difference of Time between Mornings and Evenings,' by Mr. Best, 'Note on his Catalogue of Binary Stars,' by Mr. Chambers, 'Description of a New Chronographic Pen.'

GEOLOGICAL.—Nov. 11.—Prof. T. H. Huxley, President, in the chair.—Mr. W. A. E. Usher, Rev. R. Dixon, Mr. W. Woodman, and Mr. F. E. Mallet, were elected Fellows.—The following communications were read: 'Note comparing the Geological Structure of North-western Siberia with that of Russia in Europe,' by Sir R. I. Murchison, Bart., 'On a Section of a Well at Kissingen,' by Prof. Sandberger, 'On the Formation of Deltas; and on the Evidence and Cause of great Changes in the Sea-level during the Glacial Period,' by Mr. A. Tylor.

ZOOLOGICAL.—Nov. 12.—Prof. Newton in the chair.—The Secretary read a Report on the more important additions made to the Society's menagerie during the last summer. Amongst these particular attention was called to Hoolock Gibbon (*Hylobates Hoolock*) presented by Mr. A. Grote; a young female Sea Lion (*Otaria jubata*) obtained by the Society's collector at the Falkland Islands; a young male African two-horned Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros bicornis*); and an example of the Tuatera Lizard of New Zealand (*Hatteria punctata*), the last-named animal having been presented to the Society by Sir George Grey, K.C.B., on his recent return from New Zealand.—Four communications were read from Dr. J. E. Gray, containing Notes 'On the Bottle-nosed

Whales (Tursio) in the British Museum; 'Description of a new Tortoise from Trinidad,' proposed to be called *Hydraspis Gordoni*, after the Hon. A. Gordon, who had deposited a specimen of this species in the Society's reptile house; 'Note on Oculinaria,' a new genus of social Ascidians from Western Australia; and 'Notice of Theonella,' a new genus of Coraloid Sponges from Formosa.

ENTOMOLOGICAL.—Nov. 16.—Mr. H. W. Bates, President, in the chair.—Mr. Bond exhibited specimens of *Polia nigro-cincta*, from the Isle of Man, a variety of *Diarthra capicola* from Warrington, and *Tapinostola elymi* from the Norfolk coast. Prof. Westwood mentioned that the Leucania, exhibited by Mr. Briggs at the previous meeting, had proved to be *L. albipuncta* of the Vienna Catalogue, a species new to the British list. Mr. M'Lachlan exhibited specimens of both sexes of *Encycla pusilla*, bred by Mr. Fletcher, of Worcester; the females were apterous, and the insect was remarkable amongst the Trichoptera as being the only well-authenticated instance of a terrestrial larva belonged to that group; though common on the Continent, it had never previously been detected in this country. Mr. Bond read a letter from a correspondent in Cambridgeshire, respecting an enormous swarm of *Gastrophysa polygoni*, which, at the end of September, covered the road, footpath, grass and hedges for a distance of three-quarters of a mile, so that bushes of the beetle might have been picked up. Prof. Westwood exhibited some remarkable Hymenoptera, including three new species of Trigonaly; the type of a new genus, which was described under the name of *Nomadina Smithii*; and another insect of so aberrant form that Mr. F. Smith had regarded it as an ant, others had referred it to the family Sphegidae, whilst he himself thought it belonged to the Vespidae. Magnified drawings of this curiosity were shown, and the name *Sibyllina enigmatica* proposed for it. The insect had been received from Hayti.

CHEMICAL.—Nov. 5.—Dr. W. A. Miller, V.P., in the chair.—After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, the donations to the library were announced, amongst which was a valuable present of eighty volumes from the library of the late Dr. Warrington, including a copy of Agricola's celebrated treatise 'De re Metallica.' The following papers were read: 'On the Hydride of Butyro-Salicyl and Butyric Coumaric Acid,' by Mr. W. H. Perkin, 'On the Application of Chlorine Gas to the Toughening and Refining of Gold,' by Mr. F. B. Miller. The process devised by the author consists in passing a stream of chlorine gas through the melted gold covered with a layer of borax. In a few hours the whole of the silver present is converted into chloride, which floats on the gold. The borax prevents the loss of silver by absorption or volatilization. As soon as the gold has become solid the still liquid chloride of silver is poured off, and the gold is now found to have a fineness of 993 parts in 1000; the loss of gold is about the same as in the ordinary processes.—'Note on the Specific Gravity and Boiling Point of Chromyl Dichloride,' and 'Analysis of the Ashes of Diseased Orange Trees,' by Mr. T. E. Thorpe. The author finds remarkable differences in the percentages of lime and phosphoric acid in the different parts of the healthy and diseased trees.

SYRO-EGYPTIAN.—Nov. 3.—W. H. Black, Esq., in the chair.—Mr. W. F. Ainsworth read a paper 'On the Waters of Merom.' After remarking that the Waters of Merom could, after the principle adopted in regard to the Nile, be called the sources or head-waters of the Jordan, he proceeded to describe the approaches to the lake from the south, where some writers place the scene of the great battle fought between Joshua and the five confederated kings. Mr. Ainsworth objected to this identification, the position of Hazor—the stronghold of Jabin—far away to the north, if identified with Hazur at the spring of same name at the foot of Mount Hermon; and equally far away to the west, if identified with Hazur in Wady Rumash, beyond the hills of Safed. The

Ain al Malik or 'King's Spring' was identified with Ain (Numbers xxxiv. 11, 12); and the brook and tel of Dufai with Daphne. The lake itself was then described with reference to its vegetation, to the animals that frequent its marshes, and to the birds that obtain subsistence in its waters. Some interesting remarks by the Chairman and others followed the reading of the paper.

MATHEMATICAL.—Nov. 12.—The new Council for the Session 1868-9 was elected, and consists of Prof. Cayley, President; J. C. Maxwell and Prof. H. J. S. Smith and Sylvester, Vice-Presidents; Messrs. W. K. Clifford, M. A. Crofton, T. Cotterill, A. De Morgan, S. Roberts, J. Stirling, A. Smith, and W. S. B. Woolhouse, Ordinary Members.—Prof. Hirst and Messrs. Jenkins and Tucker were re-elected Treasurer and Secretaries respectively.—The Lord Bishop of Limerick was elected a Member, and the following gentlemen were proposed for election: Messrs. R. Abney, B.A., George Darwin, B.A., G. O. Hanlon and T. Bond Sprague, M.A.—The President gave an account of 'Listing's Censur Räumlicher Complexe, oder verallgemeinerung des Eulerschen Satzes von den Polyedern,' and Dr. Henrici read a paper 'On certain Formulæ concerning the Theory of Discriminants, with Application to Discriminants of Discriminants, and to the Theory of Polar Curves.'

ANTHROPOLOGICAL.—Nov. 17.—Sir Duncan Gibb, Bart., V.P., in the chair.—The adjourned discussion on Mr. W. Dendy's paper, 'Anthropogenesis,' was taken; after which Dr. Charnock read a paper, by himself and Mr. Wake, 'On Language as a Test of Race.'—A paper by Mr. Westropp, 'On the Origin and Development of Language,' was then read.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

- MON. Royal Academy, 8.—'Anatomy,' Mr. Partridge. Geographical, 8.—'Travels in Manchuria,' Rev. A. Wilkinson.
- TUES. Engineers, 8.—'Roman Rock Lighthouse, Cape of Good Hope,' Mr. Henderson. Ethnological, 8.—'Schuiche Indians, Patagonia,' Consul Hutchinson. 'The Gymnasia,' Capt. Lindsay.
- WED. Society of Arts, 8.—'Address by Lord Lennox. Geological, 8.—'Dakosaurus,' Mr. Wood Mason. 'British Fossil Ours,' 'British Post-Glacial Mammals,' Mr. Boyd Dawkins.
- THURS. Mathematical, 8.—'Relation of Arcs of Spirals,' Prof. Sylvester. Zoological, 8.—'New Genus Macrobrachium,' Dr. Semper. 'Pelagic Shells,' Commander Knocker. 'Lepidoptera,' Mr. Butler.
- ROYAL 8. Antiquaries, 8j.

FINE ARTS

THE CORINTHIAN GALLERY, ARGYLL STREET.

To an exhibition which is entirely in the management of artists, no critic can wish otherwise than well. There is small occasion in this case to be indulgent for the five hundred and odd paintings are, in the mass, equal to any similarly constituted number. About half this number are oil paintings, to which we shall now direct attention, taking the works in their order on the walls, and grouping each man's contributions. No. 5, is a figure-picture by Mr. W. Boehm, *When Need is Greatest Help is Nearest*, two charitable ladies visiting a destitute family. The figures of the former are designed with much natural expressiveness, the face of the poor mother, with no lack of vulgarity, is strongly pathetic. The grimy colour is a drawback here.—*A Merry Thought* (17), by J. L. Thomas, a negro's head, has the expression of laughter well produced, with much tact in treating such flesh in a rough, effective way.—A capital specimen of the Italian mode of landscape painting appears in Mr. Barrucco's *Marble Quarries at Carrara* (20), which has sunlight effect aimed at and vigorously suggested so far as light and shade afford means of success, but, as to colour, one wonders how the artist can see nature thus. Apart from the valuable elements here, which are many, the picture is in colouring, like most of the French, Italian and Dutch landscapes, neither more nor less than a libel on nature.—*Doris* (25) is a nice little picture, by Mr. Smallfield.—27, *A Running Fight*, by Mr. Dawson, shows two ships at night, in a fresh gale with much sea on, and firing at each other across the dark, greenish and yeasty

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FINE-ART GOSSIP.

THE private view of the Winter Exhibition of Sketches by Members of the Society of Painters in Water Colours takes place to-day (Saturday). The Gallery will be opened to the public on Monday next.

Among the new pictures intended for public exhibition at the National Gallery when the departure of the Royal Academy from Trafalgar Square leaves room for them, is a large altar-piece by Carlo Crivelli, representing the Virgin and Child in the centre of the lowest of successive tiers of panels, which are inclosed in one of the characteristic architectural frames of the period in which the painter lived. The designing of the pair is very sweet and beautiful, beyond the common fortune of Crivelli. The subordinate figures on this immense altar-piece are those of saints, &c. In the manner which was proper, if not peculiar to the painters of the Marca in Carlo's day, some of the decorations of the dresses worn by the figures are moulded upon the panels in relief and gilt; the mose of St. Peter, who appears in the left of the centre, is thus distinguished. The painting was purchased from the Demidoff Collection, in the Villa San Donato, Florence. The buying of this large work renders the National Gallery richer than any other collection in pictures by this very interesting painter. We begin to wish that the nation were enriched by means of a few De Hooges and Jan Steens, not to write of a tolerable Teniers or two; a Vander Helst, besides the quiet 'Portrait of a Lady' (No. 140), would be welcome.

Mr. Armitage is painting a picture of considerable size, representing Hero holding the beacon-light for the swimming Leander.

The National Gallery has received the large family picture by Gainsborough, which was bequeathed by the late Alexander Baillie, Esq., and which, according to the testator's intention, remained in the hands of the late M. J. Higgins, Esq., until his death. This retention of the picture by the latter person occurred under a decision by the authorities of the Treasury, 18th of January, 1858, upon the terms of the bequest, which were legally informal. The painting was exhibited at the British Institution a few years since, and comprises the whole-length portraits of the Baillie family, father, mother and children. The second is seated a little to the right of the centre of the composition; the first leans his elbow upon the back of her chair; the children stand in front of the lady. There is much of Gainsborough's richness and freedom in the treatment of this picture, indeed it may be classed among his finer works; it has also some of his characteristic defects, e.g. the disproportionate drawing of the gentleman's head to his body, a defect which, by the juxtaposition of the towering head-dress of the lady, is made more conspicuous than it would otherwise be.

One of the pictures by Mr. Ward, in the Commons Corridor, at the Parliament House, Westminster, has been protected by glass. Another work of the series is to receive a like protection: this is 'William and Mary.' Mr. Cope's pictures in the Lords' Corridor of the same building, have been treated with the new paraffine solution, to which we referred some time since, with, we believe, a view to staying deterioration which may be caused by bad air, damp, fumes of gas, or what else, which has done so much mischief at the Houses. Mr. Herbert's picture of 'Moses Presenting the Tables of the Law' is said to show signs of deterioration: that artist, more fortunate than his fellows—who were compelled to execute their pictures *in situ*, is believed to be at work at home on the second painting for the Peers' Robing Room. The labours of Mr. MacIise in the Royal Gallery are in abeyance, if not ended.

We are sorry to hear, from a source which is unchallengeable, that several, if not many of the pictures which are heirlooms in Knole, Sevenoaks, have been very injudiciously cleaned, and that among these more than one have been most unfortunately "restored." Although these works may be private property, every student and lover of art has so deep an interest in them that it is but right

we should call the attention of those who, in this matter, are conservators for posterity to the state in which their treasures are alleged to exist, and the danger to which more of them are exposed. Among the paintings named to us as having suffered in this fashion, are Reynolds's 'Madame Bucalli,' the dancer, 'Miss Axford—the Fair Quakeress,' and a portrait of a lady by Vandyck, which have been greatly injured. We are further informed that remonstrances were formerly proposed to be made to the custodians of these inestimable works by several eminent artists who were distressed by what they saw in the noble house at Knole; but if these remonstrances were delivered to those in authority, they appear to have been ineffectual.

The Keeper of the Prints, British Museum, during a recent visit in Somersetshire, had occasion to examine some interesting pictures and portraits which are preserved at Butleigh Court, in the possession of R. N. Grenville, Esq., M.P. As these are important, there being among them a large series of original studies for portraits by John Downman, representing men eminent at Cambridge, we may call attention to them. Among the sitters were the first Lord Crewe, husband of "True Blue" Mrs. Crewe, and her family; Dr. Lort; Lord Althorp; Benjamin West; Dr. Farmer, of Emanuel College; Gilbert Wakefield; C. J. Fox, painted for Mrs. Crewe (Lady Crewe); Col. Thomas James, author of 'The History of the Herculean Straits'; Dr. Bentley, and Newton, after Thornhill; Bishop Mountain, of Quebec; the Daniels, artists; King, the actor, and Miss Farren (Countess of Derby), painted for the Earl of Derby; Hill, and Mrs. Hartley, whom Reynolds painted as 'A Bacchante,' and many other sitters to Sir Joshua, such as members of the Braddyll family; Robert Southey; Boroleskie the Polish dwarf; S. Kemble; Nelson; Lord Borington; Cruikshank the surgeon, and a very large number of persons of local and fashionable distinction who were living in the period embraced by the lives of the above.

One of the most interesting parts of the late Leeds Exhibition was that which the zeal and intelligence of Mr. Hailstone supplied, the portraits of Yorkshire Worthies, being men and women of many families and centuries, some universally famous, some with local legends tacked to their names and pictures. Desiring the collecting of such series of portraits in places where the originals lived, worked and died, we are glad to be told that the likenesses lately at Leeds are to be published in photography, by Messrs. Cundall & Fleming, with biographical notices by Mr. Hailstone.

The Religious Tract Society sends us a nicely illustrated edition of Cowper's 'Table-Talk and other Poems.' The designs are all pleasing enough to suit the class for whom this issue is obviously intended, they differ, however, very much in artistic merits, and proceed from the hands of Messrs. Harrison Weir, Wimperis, Gilbert, Noel Humphreys and others. The text is reprinted from the edition of 1782. The passage on "Romanism" in 'Expostulation,' which was removed in the second edition, has been replaced here.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY, Exeter Hall. Conductor Mr. Costa.—By special desire, Handel's 'ISRAEL IN EGYPT,' on FRIDAY NEXT. Principal Vocalists: Madame Rudersdorf, Miss Robertine Henderson, Madame Sainton-Dobry, Mr. Vernon Rigby, and Mr. Santley.—Numbered Stall Tickets, 19s. 6d.; Reserved Area, 5s. each; with Prospectus, now ready. The Subscription for the Season is, for Numbered Stalls, 3 Guineas; for Reserved Seats, 2 Guineas.—The Office, 6, Exeter Hall, open Daily, from Ten till Six.

GIOACCHINO ROSSINI.

THE last man of genius but one who belonged to the greatest musical period that Europe has yet seen,—the contemporary of Beethoven, Weber, Spohr, Mendelssohn, Meyerbeer, Paer, Mayer, Zingarelli, Donizetti, Pacini, Bellini, M. Auber, Paganini, De Bériot, Ernst, M. Moscheles, Hummel, Chopin, M.M. Liszt, Thalberg, and a score of other artists, whose place there is small present chance of being filled,—almost, it may be added, the greatest man of genius in the glorious list—Rossini—born at Pesaro on the 29th of Feb-

ruary, 1792, died on the 13th of this month, in Paris. His health had been failing for some time past; his mortal illness, which lasted for some fortnight, we are told, was terribly painful. Everything that science and devoted ministration could do to alleviate his sufferings and to prolong his existence was done, but in vain.

For the moment, it is impossible to do more than group together a few facts and characteristics regarding the life and works of one of the most original artists, in every sense of the word, who ever enriched the art he practised. There is no want of anecdotes, correspondence, of personal recollections, within easy reach, such as will make a complete and distinct biography of Rossini, one full of interest and instruction; but the duty of the hour is simply, in a few words, to assemble a few of the known facts of his brilliant and singular career. This week it must suffice to state that Rossini was a native of Pesaro; one of a family of obscure musicians, the son of a very beautiful woman, doomed to struggle into life and celebrity under the conditions of poverty and meagre instruction. His first master, he told Ferdinand Hiller, was one Prinetti; but he seems to have mastered the secrets of Music almost by instinct. His joyousness of temperament, seconded by a prodigious memory, encouraged him in boastful contempt of "rule and governance," in apparent contempt of thought and labour. The tale goes that, after having taken some dozen lessons in counterpoint from Padre Mattei, he asked his professor whether he had learnt enough to enable him to write operas; and, on receiving an answer in the affirmative, flung down his exercise-book, and busily and boldly set to work for the stage. This, however, is possibly an exaggeration of the facts. There are persons born so richly organized that they can dispense with the study which is necessary to men of genius of the second order. So far as his own words can be relied on, Mendelssohn, whose amazing technical command of the pianoforte was only one of his myriad attractions, never hammered away as a child at the keyboard, though he commanded it like a ripe, strong man while he was yet a mere boy. Mozart, again, got into counterpoint, without learning it under the Abbé Vogler. The fact that these examples have been abused and pleaded by the arrogant and the lazy has nothing to do with their historical truth.

Rossini, at all events, had no mistrust in assaulting the theatre of his country at a very early age. There were singers in those days; and the boy, being an exquisite singer himself, was tempted to lavish his genius on the vocal portion of his operatic music, careless of dramatic interest—not very scrupulous as to instrumental ingenuity. The orchestras for which his early operas, 'La Scala della Seta' and 'Il Pietro del Paragone,' were composed, belonging to such small theatres as were accessible to him, must have been paltry enough. There was no temptation for one so sensuous, so abundant in melody as he was, to study, to refine, to meditate new combinations. And yet there is nothing in the orchestral music of any country more provocative, more original, more various, than the introductions to Rossini's overtures—as, for instance, those to 'L'Italiana,' 'La Gazza,' 'Il Barbiere,' 'Tancredi,' 'Cenerentola,' 'La Donna,' 'Semiramide,' 'Le Siège de Corinthe' (with its glorious march), and 'Guillaume Tell.' In the first quality, which every overture should possess, that of commanding attention from the very first stroke of the orchestra, they are only equalled, not exceeded, by the overtures of Weber. As his curtain-tunes proceed, the composer's habitual carelessness, in filling up every prelude by receipt, becomes evident. On the other hand,—though here, also, too little solicitous as to repetitions of known forms,—he watched his singers rigorously; and not without reason. Many, if not all, of the florid embroideries which are lavished over his opera-songs, and which by stupid hearers have been confounded with the original idea underneath, were expressly noted down by himself, in order to deprive his executants of their right of private judgment. It is certain that the ornamental passages and cadenzas noted in Rossini's music have a style which nothing can supersede, nor replace without certain loss.

It is impossible, for the moment, to range according to order the amazing series of his Italian operas, poured forth during a period less than twenty years in duration. Among these were 'L'Italiana,' with its incomparable 'Pappataci' trio for three men, and its nobler *finale*, 'Pensa alla Patria,'—'Bianca e Faliero,' with its pompous duet, and its quartet with chorus, 'Ciel il mio labbro,' not exceeded in climax and excitement by the *finale* added by him to 'Moïse' ('Mose') for the Opera at Paris,—'Tancredi,' with 'Di tanti,' scribbled down in haste, while the rice for the Italian's dinner was seething,—and its two superb duets,—'Il Barbiere,' the comedy of Beaumarchais, which, told in the most delicious of melodies, to the most perfect of dramatic forms, will never die, so long as remains on the stage the echo of a singer, or the shadow of a lover, or the spark of one of the rare old buffoons of the Italian theatres. This 'Barbiere,' by the way, had at first a contested success, Paisiello's setting of the same story being then in possession of favour. But after a night or two the work had won its place, and such a brilliant renown for its writer, as even in their best days neither Paisiello nor Cimarosa had altogether ever mastered. Rossini's early works were poorly paid, for 'rights of authors' there were none, at least in Italy, and managers could do such unheard-of things as embezzling the privilege of representation by purloining a copy of a score; but they produced enough to satisfy the careless wants of the young Pesarese. He became at once the favourite of his countrymen, and more, of his countrywomen. Besides being a great genius and having a ready wit, such as few have commanded (which a thousand anecdotes remain to attest), he was singularly handsome, and successful as a man of intrigue and gallantry. To the last (it may be remarked in passing), Rossini kept his wonderful freshness and poignancy of repartee—his charming though often sardonic courtesy of manner, and that pair of eyes, at once clear, tender and searching, which must, in the heyday of his youth, have been found resistless by the passionate ladies of his own country.

Italian opera after opera was poured out by Rossini with every conceivable variety of success. Some of those the best known may be grouped without reference to chronology. Among comic operas, 'La Cenerentola,' with its introduction, its concerted piece, 'Questo e nodo,' and its final *rondo*, and 'Matilda di Shabran,' otherwise 'Corradino,' rich from beginning to end in melody, though weighed down by the absurdities of its story. Among sentimental operas, 'La Donna,' the music of which is as a breath from the hills of our north country, and (be it marked) essentially different in colour from the Swiss music to his 'Guillaume Tell' and 'La Gazza.' Among works of a higher flight, 'Zelmira' and 'Semiramide,' and, best of all, 'Otello,' the last act of which is, probably, the highest expression of Italian tragic music in existence, because it is the simplest—an act preluded by yet another of those exquisite introductions to which we have referred, and in its tremendous tragic passion sustained by merely two persons with a pathos and an audacity which there is no over-praising. Desdemona's willow-song (how wonderfully was it rendered by Pasta and Malibran!) is not more truly dramatic than the frenzied final duet, where every brilliancy of vocal resource is enlisted in the service of the jealousy, despair, and death-agony of the scene. If this marvellous piece of dramatic conception, where the wildest passion is combined with a beauty as symmetrical as that of the Greek statues, is now thought slow and cold by those who will swallow any amount of Verdi bombast or of Wagner trash, it may be that the great art of operatic singing and acting has died out.

He died in easy circumstances. He was twice married; the first time to Madame Colbran, a renowned Neapolitan *prima donna* of his day, somewhat past her prime. For this lady he wrote his 'Zelmira,' and she accompanied him to England; when Prince Leopold's Concerts, at Marlborough House, were "the rage" in our world of fashion; when Almack's was in full glory. What a by-gone time does this simple statement recall! There is probably one only of that brilliant society still in the world,—Lady Palmerston, then Lady Cowper.

The stories of Rossini's vain-glory, during his invasion of England, are countless. Who has not heard of his speech to the beauty standing between him and the Duke of Wellington—"Madame, how happy should you be, to find yourself placed between the two greatest men in Europe!" At these Marlborough House Concerts he sang. Rossini was a second time married to Madame Pelissier, who survives him.

The great *maestro* is to be interred to-day, by his own express desire, in the cemetery of Père La Chaise, after a stately service at La Madeleine. It would be needless and premature to speak of the provisions of his will as regards the art he loved so dearly and so superbly adorned; and the less so, since the amount of matter for recollection and anecdote is already so abundant. H. F. C.

Judith: an Historical Drama, in Five Acts.—Cenethers: a Play, in Five Acts.—Eurymache, the Greek Maiden: a Tragedy, in Five Acts.—Gadburga: a Tragedy, in Five Acts.—The Mummy-Makers of Egypt: a Comedy, in Five Acts. By Richard Capper. (Clarson, Massina & Co.)

FIVE new and original dramas reach us from Malbourn, the pioneers of an army of similar productions with which we are threatened. Since the days of Lopez de Vega or Thomas Heywood, no dramatist so prolific as Mr. Capper bids fair to be has appeared within the horizon of literature. Twenty-three separate dramas, most of them in five acts, are announced by our author as already in preparation. These, moreover, are not upon modern subjects. They are principally taken from the early history of Egypt, Assyria, Greece, or Britain, including, among other works, 'Nitocris, Queen of Babylon: a Comedy, in Four Acts'; 'Omeges the Tyrant: a Tragedy, in Five Acts'; 'Sogodamus and Togodamus: a Play, in Five Acts'; and 'The Last of the Hyksos: a Tragedy, in Five Acts.' Judging from the plays before us, it is difficult to believe that Mr. Capper intends his plays for serious criticism. Seldom have works so hopelessly mad been printed. The subject of one comedy is "the Mummy-Makers of Egypt." Among its *dramatis personæ* are Mr. Nimcher and Mr. Knopchere, rich Egyptian gentlemen; Mrs. Tophano, a rich widow; Mrs. Nimcher, a very jealous woman; Mrs. Knopchere, a very lively woman; and Mrs. Fimper, a woman of consequence in her own way. The comic portion of the play depends greatly upon a scene in which real corpses are brought to be made into mummies; and the sensation effect is a representation of the moving of the Sphinx. In the other works equal absurdities are seen. Mr. Capper has not the faintest idea of metre, rhyme, dramatic construction, or anything necessary to the dramatist. His verses have sometimes eight syllables, and at other times twice that number; while they contain such images as "Rest satisfied, and for a time let love's sweet banquet blossom in thine heart;" or such expressions as "The king and queen, wherefore or why I know not, have just bestowed a noble distinction upon my father." In the drama of 'Judith,' the action of which is placed in the reign of William the Conqueror, we have also Mr. Gifford, a landowner, and Mr. Renard, a lawyer. The play is a sequel to a former tragedy, entitled 'Waltheof.' Its heroine, who is the niece of the Conqueror, endears vainly to lead a life of obscurity and penitence. She is ever on the point of marrying some one whom her charms have conquered, when a stranger appears, and points her out as the "detested wife of Waltheof." No other term but this, which becomes intensely comic by repetition, is used to characterize her, and she comes in time to call herself by the name with which she has grown familiar. The nature of these productions may be guessed from the fact that this is in all respects the sanest and most intelligible of them all.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—The more of Schubert's works that come to light the more does our astonishment grow at the fecundity of his genius. Having little encouragement to write anything but songs, he engaged in composition of the highest order for

the mere powers. singing to poured forth unprompted tender gro of a doll he must these imperish came to these ha Schubert and each who coul thirty-on tunity se kind of Schubert nion of H there is the melo the more later mas great for which, lib in Egypt Handelic by a vig hand, S through pictures sung by m sustained opposed incident. in c min moh may for two-very ple bert's gr eting, a recogniz satisfact excep tion's voi for such If the v ment in tralto v publish enterpri many of scant ju The sec words of the non far'd be done o graphic prising Parisian was in which t Conserv Mr. H Choral and He 'Forell as an Halle's disting least in Victori

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the mere delight of giving play to his transcendent powers. Composition came as naturally to him as singing to a nightingale, and he spontaneously poured forth his whole soul "in profuse strains of unmeditated art." Songs, some unmatched in tender grace, he was content to write at the rate of a dollar each, to buy him his daily bread, but he must have been glad to turn away from these in order to commit to paper and fix in imperishable shape the exquisite thoughts which came to him unbidden. Though buried so long, these have not been lost. One after another Schubert's disregarded works are brought to hearing, and each increases our admiration for the composer who could produce so much in a short life of thirty-one years. There is no doubt that, had opportunity served him, he might have excelled in every kind of composition. In 'The Song of Miriam' Schubert would seem to have been under the dominion of Handel. There is no actual plagiarism, but there is resemblance in style, in the character of the melodies and in their treatment, and this is the more remarkable as the general manner of the later master differs so essentially from that of his great forerunner. The subject of the first chorus—which, like that of 'Exodus,' the second part of 'Israel in Egypt,' opens and closes the work—is singularly Handelian in style, while the cantata is concluded by a vigorously-conducted fugue. On the other hand, Schubert's short recital of the passage through the Red Sea, described in a dramatically picturesque fashion by means of unisonous passages sung by male and female voices in alternation, against sustained harmonies in the orchestra, is completely opposed to Handel's treatment of the same striking incident. There is immense spirit in the movement in c minor depicting the Israelites' dread lest Pharaoh may follow them, and a "canon in the octave" for two-part chorus has a thoroughly original and very pleasing effect. If by no means one of Schubert's greatest works 'Miriam's song' is most interesting, as exhibiting his genius in a hitherto scarcely recognized manifestation. The performance was not satisfactory. The solo part requires a soprano of exceptional compass. Madame Lemmens Sherrington's voice is deficient both in depth and in power for such a part, and she was not even note-perfect. If the work is given again, the solo of the movement in E minor had better be assigned to a contralto voice. The 'Song of Miriam' has just been published by Messrs. Novello, to whose spirited enterprise we have recently been indebted for so many of Mendelssohn's works. Grillparzer has had scant justice at the hands of his English translator. The second quatrains is quite unintelligible, and the words of the "canon" alluded to remind one of the nonsense-verses of our childhood. If Schubert fared badly in performance, the amplest justice was done on Saturday to Weber and Mozart. The graphic 'Euryanthe Overture' was given with surprising effect, and the symphony in D, styled the Parisian, because it was composed while Mozart was in the French capital, for the *Concerts Spirituels* which then held the rank of those now given at the Conservatoire, was rendered with admirable finish. Mr. Halle played the piano part in Beethoven's Choral Fantasia as well as two pieces by Henselt and Heller. The latter's arrangement of Schubert's 'Forelle' and the 'Spinnlied' of Mendelssohn, given as an *encore*, were favourable instances of Mr. Halle's best style. The Crystal Palace choir did not distinguish themselves on Saturday, but they were least indifferent in a clever part-song, 'Joy to the Victors,' of Mr. Arthur Sullivan.

SURREY.—Mr. G. W. Lovell's play of 'The Wife's Secret' was produced on Saturday at this theatre. For many years past this piece, which was the property of the late Charles Kean, has not been seen in London. It has now returned into the hands of the author, and has been performed at two different houses during the past week. 'The Wife's Secret' was first played in England at the Haymarket in 1848, having, however, previously been frequently represented in America. It is almost a type of the best class of poetical dramas of a score years ago. It is neat in construction, clever in characterization, and full of interest. The comic scenes are lively, and the tragic passages not wanting in dramatic fire. All that it needs to be a really good play is to get rid of a certain over-polish of workmanship and a prettiness of language and sentiment from which few dramas of its time are free. Its motive is fresh and original. Sir Walter Amyott's jealousy is of no commonplace order. He scarcely heeds the suggestions of the domestic Iago whom he has cherished. No "trifles light as air" confirm his jealous doubts. He never suspects until he has the assurance which Othello demands and cannot obtain. Even in the "very torrent and whirlwind of his passion" he is ashamed of himself, and stands dazed before the aspect of purity of the woman whom a moment before he had seen in the embraces of a stranger. To the last moment he feels he is in a nightmare-dream, from which he must shortly awake. The character throughout is noble, and has nothing about it conventional or stagey. Lady Eveline is also powerfully drawn. Her burst of contempt for the man who, whatever weight of suspicion may hang over her, has dared to believe her guilty, is the finest thing in the play. Keppel, a page of the Cherubino type, and Maud, a waiting-woman, with little fancy for puritanical formalism, are also well depicted. The other characters belong mostly to well-known stage types. Mr. Creswick gave a respectable representation of Sir Walter, acting best in the stronger passages, and exhibiting clearly the conflict of doubt and shame by which the husband's mind was tortured. Miss Pouncefort played Lady Eveline; Mr. Vollaire gave a wonderful picture of puritanical villany—as seen from a Surrey point of view. The reception of the play was favourable throughout.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC GOSSIP.

THERE has been the usual single performance of 'Fidelio,' in which Mdle. Tietjens, without whom Beethoven's opera would all these years have been completely estranged from the theatre, sang and played with untiring energy. The German lady's continued and deserved success is an instance of zeal being in the long run a more useful quality than genius. The *Rocco* was Herr Formes, whose excellent singing as *Leporello* at the morning performance of 'Don Giovanni' led us to hope that he had recovered his lost powers. In 'Fidelio' he sang woefully out of tune. Signor Agretti, who took the part of Signor Bettini, indisposed, has no qualifications for the part of *Florestan*. Mr. Santley's *Pizarro* and Mdle. Sinico's *Marcellina* were excellent as ever. Neither could be replaced with any hope of improvement. Mdle. de Murska has appeared as *Astrifamante* and as *Linda*, her peculiar means telling to the better advantage in Mozart's idealization of Freemasonry. There is no excuse for her interpolating in Donizetti's opera, one of the most carefully-written works of a too prolific composer, Proch's air, with its ugly and unvoiced variations. The time of such barbarisms is past. Mdle. Scalehi sang Pierotto's pretty music very well, and Mr. Santley was very fine in the scene in which Linda is confronted with her angry sire. Next week is announced to be the last of the winter season, and 'Dinorah,' with Mdle. Ilma de Murska, is to be given to-night.

The Monday Popular Concerts began this week with a programme made up entirely of well-known compositions which have been constantly repeated at St. James's Hall. Among them were Mendelssohn's Quartett in D, Mozart's Clarinet Quintett in A, and Dussek's B flat Duett Sonata. The quartett party was led by M. Sainton, Mr. Lazarus being the clarionettist, and Herr Pauer being at the piano. Signor Piatti—who played his favourite Boccherini Sonata in A, an old-fashioned piece of display—is to hold the violoncello throughout the season. Miss Edith Wynne, who has been gifted with one of the purest and most sympathetic *sopranos* ever heard, is in some danger of injuring it by tremulousness. It is our high opinion of her which induces us to give her this word of timely caution. The only real novelty of Monday's concert was a charming new ballad, by Mr. Benedict, "I know a song," charmingly sung by Miss Wynne.—On Monday, M. Sainton is to bring forward an interesting novelty—a Sonata by Porpora.

An interesting concert was given last week in favour of the German *Turnhalle* in London. Mendelssohn's 'Antigone' choruses were admirably rendered by the metropolitan *Geangvereine*, and Herr Bandmann recited Schiller's 'Song of the Bell.'

A new drama by Mr. Halliday is in preparation for the New Royalty Theatre.

On Wednesday, for her farewell benefit, Miss Marriott appeared at Sadler's Wells Theatre as *Lady Eveline* in 'The Wife's Secret.'

A new drama by Dr. Mosenthal, with the title of 'Pietra,' will be produced at the Haymarket on the 7th of December. Miss Bateman will play the heroine, who gives her name to the piece.

At the Standard Theatre a realistic effect never previously seen upon an English stage is being exhibited. A play called 'Danger' now performed, gives a modification of the ordinary railway "sensational." The incidents, however, occur in a thunderstorm, and a real shower of rain drenches the stage and, to all appearance, the actors also.

The Liverpool Philharmonic Society, now conducted by Mr. Benedict, is displaying a wide activity, which may well be emulated in the metropolis. At last Tuesday's concert, at which Mdle. Ilma de Murska was the vocalist, the programme included Lindpaintner's 'Faust' Overture, and Mendelssohn's 'Cornelius' March, "repeated by desire." Spohr's Fifth Symphony, in c minor,—not to be confounded with No 3, in the same key,—almost unknown in England, was given at the preceding concert. Our London societies must look to their laurels if they wish to retain their influence on the progress of musical art in England.

Apocryphal of the spread of a love for high-class music in the provinces, we may call attention to the continued success of the orchestral concerts organized by Mr. William Rea, in Newcastle-on-Tyne. The programmes of the past series comprise, *inter alia*, thirteen Symphonies by the great masters, and a well-selected orchestra did justice to the excellent music chosen for performance.

A Correspondent informs us that it is true that M. Manasse, an Armenian, *impresario* of the French company, then just arrived at Constantinople for the season, was engaged by the Viceroy on high terms, and it was stated he had a commission to engage Mdle. Schneider, of whose merits the Viceroy was said to have been an admirer at Paris during the Exhibition. As to the 7,000 workmen set to build a theatre in Egypt, that is some gross blunder of the Paris paper. Another French company is being got up for Constantinople, to replace the favourite one of Manasse.

'Le Monde, ou l'On s'Amuse,' a one-act comedy by M. Pailleron, produced at the Gymnase, is the one novelty of the past week at the Parisian theatres.

A drama entitled 'Mdle. la Marquise,' by MM. Saint-Georges and Lockroy, is to replace the 'Drame de la Rue de la Paix' at the Odéon.

'La Princesse Rouge,' a drama by Édouard Plouvier, is in rehearsal at the Ambigu-Comique.

A three-act drama, by M. Octave Feuillet, bearing the provisional title of 'Julie' has been accepted at the Comédie.

A Paris paper states that at the rehearsal for the last *Concert Populaire* the members of the orchestra revenged themselves for being compelled to play the overture to Wagner's "Meistersänger" by hissing the work which they had just performed. It may be questioned if executants have the right to express any critical opinion on the music which they are called upon to render, but there can be no doubt about the estimation in which Wagner's productions are held by the professional musicians of Paris.

Mdle. Patti is not only going to Russia this year, according to her original agreement, but it appears that she has made an engagement with the St. Petersburg Opera for the two following seasons.

'Lohengrin' has been produced in the Russian capital, without success.

MISCELLANEA

The Hodgson MSS.—In the interest of manuscript literature, I beg to call your attention to an ambiguous passage in Mr. Hunter's 'Annals of Rural Bengal,' page 145, which has a very awkward look. Mr. Hunter says:—"In the course of subsequent researches in the India Office library two large trunks of manuscripts, the result of Mr. B. H. Hodgson's labours during thirty years among the Himalayan tribes, passed into my hands." These words are the usual ones of a man acquiring property by purchase or gift. And as the value of the Hodgson MSS. is apparent from the new work published by Mr. Hunter, I desire to know from the authorities at the India Office library exactly what this passing of the MSS. into Mr. Hunter's hands means. Is it possible that the MSS. have been given to him as worthless, or sold to him for a small sum? Is it possible that the librarian did not know the value of the treasures under his charge; or that he had to wait for Mr. Hunter to point it out to him? We all know how these matters are generally managed. We go to Mr. Bond at the British Museum, to Mr. Hardy at the Rolls, to Mr. Cox at the Bodleian, to Mr. Bradshaw at Cambridge, and say, humbly, we want to write on such and such a matter, please tell us what MSS. you have on it. And when our book is printed we thankfully say who told us of the MSS. we have used—the least that any gentleman can do. But in Mr. Hunter's case, all is changed. The MSS. "pass into his hands"; by what agency, divine or human, we are left in doubt. And I, therefore, caring for MSS., desire to know whether these Hodgson MSS. have stopped in the hands they passed into, or are safe in the India Office library. The matter needs explanation. MASTER OF ARTS.

Paupers.—According to a Parliamentary paper, the total number of paupers in England and Wales on the 1st of January last was 1,040,103. Of these 43,158 or 4·3 per cent. were insane. They consisted of 19,033 males, and 24,125 females. These figures compare unfavourably with the statistics of former years. In 1863 the proportion of insane paupers to the total number of paupers was only 3·17 per cent.

Britannia.—Notwithstanding the research of Camden and those who preceded him, it may be doubted whether the origin and significance of this name have been ascertained. I am not aware that any more recent attempts have been made; so, perhaps, a charge of presumption will not lie, if for *Brit*, speckled, parti-coloured, and *tania*, region or country, it is suggested that the correct derivation is *Brith*, bringing forth; *stain* or *stan*, tin; and *ia*, country or island; the combination, Britannia, signifying the tin-producing country or island; it being observed that an aspirate before the letter *s* renders it quiescent, and is apt itself to be lost. Another similar root is *Bruth*, pure, unalloyed; and this, considering the noted purity of the metal found in these islands, would be a very natural variation. Similarly Breatain, one of the Irish names for Britain, from *breath*, clean, pure, and *stain*, tin; and thence Breathnach, a Welshman, i. e., a Briton. Although applied in the first instance through the abundance and excellence of the tin, the name may have lost its original significance, and been applied to denote the general mineral wealth of the country, or of portions, as in the Roman provinces of Britannia Prima and Britannia Secunda; the first applying to the south of England, and the latter to the south of Wales, in the sequence in which, probably, their mineral wealth became known to the Romans. In the Court of the Stannaries in Cornwall is another example of the root suggested; though the latter may be a sort of reflexion of the original Celtic word through the Latin *stannum*, which perhaps was introduced into that language after the Roman conquest, otherwise a modification of the Greek *kassiteros* would appear more consonant with the usage. In the words *Insulae Britanniae* we have a synonym for the Greek *Kassiterides*. The latter is generally regarded as applying to the Scilly Isles only; but it seems scarcely probable that either the Pheni-

cians or other traders should confine their operations to those islets without advancing to the much more extensive country behind; and therefore that the name *Kassiterides*, like that of *Insulae Britanniae*, should be applied to the whole group of the British Isles: and thus, in fact, in three languages we have synonyms of geographical accuracy, namely, isles of tin. It seems also more likely that the people should designate their country in their own language, by a term indicative of some feature peculiar to the land, than by habit peculiar to themselves; and therefore the name of tin islands would be preferred to that of parti-coloured islands. The word *Briton* is, of course, derivable from *Britannia*; as the legend of Brutus from *Bruttania*. Lappenberg, vol. 1, p. 16, speaks of the ancient tin country, the *Bretland* of the Northmen, now Cornwall and Devonshire. It is curious to trace in the Irish language that hostile feeling towards the British, which appears to have subsisted for upwards of 2,000 years. The words *Britach* and *Bribalbh*, which signify stammering like a Briton, indicate contempt: are there any other records of this defect of speech, or is it a weak invention of the enemy? Giudbain, a name for England, conveys the idea of theft, as though the country had been stolen from its previous possessors. It is devoutly to be hoped that a better understanding may in future prevail between these fellow countrymen. Perhaps for the Scilly Isles we should read the *Skellyis*, rugged rocks; as the *Skerries* are insulated rocks, or flat rocks over which the sea flows when the tide rises. If the Scilly Isles are of laminated structure, the origin suggested for the name would be corroborated.

A DICKY SAM.

Book Margins.—Fully sympathizing with "M. A." and "L. L. D." in their remarks on cropping the margins of books, I should be glad to draw attention to another practice no less detrimental. I refer to the very narrow inner margin allowed in many books published by the largest houses. For example, compare the latter volumes of Froude's History with the earlier ones published by Messrs. Parker. To read Messrs. Longmans' volumes it is necessary almost to break the back of the cover, and when bound they are to be read only with the greatest discomfort. G. W.

Cratch.—We still use this word in Lindsey; but not for a stable-rack or crib. The former of these we always call a *heck* (*haeck*, Norse); for the latter, we are content with the current book word. A *cratch* indicates with us two things: 1. A wooden frame, about five feet long, with four legs and the like number of projecting handles, on which slaughtered pigs are laid after they have undergone the process of scalding. Upon this frame the bodies of the pigs are cut up preparatory to the several pieces being put into the salting-tub. 2. A frame consisting of bars crossing each other at right angles; something, in fact, like a portcullis with the points cut off. These frames are frequently to be seen suspended from the ceilings of farmhouse larders or the kitchens of cottages; their use is, to form a shelf on which to dry bacon. To prevent confusion, 1. is usually spoken of as the pig-cratch, and 2. as the bacon-cratch. Another use of the word has occurred to me; but I never heard it in conversation. Among the possessions of Thomas Teanby, of Barton-upon-Humber, yeoman, deceased, the inventory of whose goods is dated the 22nd of July, 1652, there occurs:—"Four waines, two rolls, 5 sheepe *cratches*, with other loose wood, xj^s iiij^d." I believe these *cratches* to have been racks for holding hay for the sheep. They may have been troughs used to contain corn or chaff. The whole of the above-quoted inventory was printed by me in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for November, 1861, p. 505. EDWARD PEACOCK.

Knapsack.—The etymology of this word is easy enough. *Knap* in Dutch means *eatable* (s), and *knappen* to eat; hence *knapsack* is a *sack* containing something to eat. The *k* is pronounced in both Dutch words. H. TIEDEMAN.

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